

Thatcher accepts 'more in sorrow'

Howe resigns in protest over Europe

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

SIR Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, resigned from the government last night in protest at the prime minister's attitude to the European Community, exposing the raw nerves and bitter divisions of the Tory party over Europe.

Relations between the two had been cool for months. Margaret Thatcher believed that he was undermining her with a series of coded speeches deviating from the official line on Europe but never by a sufficient margin to precipitate his dismissal. Friends said that her behaviour at the Rome summit had proved the final straw.

Sir Geoffrey, who is 63 and who has been famed for his political "stickability", handed in a resignation letter at about 6pm at a half-hour meeting with Mrs Thatcher in Downing Street last night. She accepted it "more in sorrow than in anger".

The resignation of her deputy is the most damaging of a long series of departures from her cabinet on European questions over the past year,

including those of former Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, and the former trade secretary, Nicholas Ridley. It means that Mrs Thatcher herself is the only survivor from her original cabinet.

The arrival on the backbenches of Sir Geoffrey, Mrs Thatcher's first Chancellor, will reopen questions about the leadership. MPs were even wondering last night if Sir Geoffrey, who has long nurtured leadership ambitions, will challenge the prime minister when she comes up for election next month.

The two have been at odds ever since what he regarded as his humiliating removal from the Foreign Office in July last year. Mrs Thatcher then switched Sir Geoffrey to the leadership of the Commons, replacing him with John Major. Mrs Thatcher had been unhappy about his role at the Madrid summit when he and Mr Lawson helped to push her into a commitment to joining the exchange-rate mechanism.

Only this week in the Commons, after Tory right wingers had called for Sir Geoffrey to be sacked, Neil Kinnock challenged the prime minister to offer public support to her deputy. She declined, saying that he was too big a man to need it. This week, too, Sir Geoffrey published an article contradicting the sovereignty arguments which she uses in resisting the moves to closer EC integration.

Mrs Thatcher had been given no warning of Sir Geoffrey's intentions. He asked for the meeting himself and then announced that he intended to go. As leader of the Commons, he had wanted for the completion of the 1989-90 Commons programme with the prorogation of parliament yesterday.

Sir Geoffrey was refusing all requests for interviews last night, letting his long resignation letter speak for itself.

His resignation is the most graphic confirmation that the European issue can split the Conservative party. It precipitated the walkout by Chancellor Nigel Lawson last October and the forced

resignation of Mr Ridley earlier this year. On Monday, Sir Geoffrey sat grim-faced as Mrs Thatcher reported to the Commons on the Rome summit and castigated Britain's European partners.

His departure could not come at a worse time. The Tories are trailing by sixteen points in national opinion polls. After the dramatic loss of the Eastbourne by-election they face the prospect of finishing third to the Liberal Democrats at the two forthcoming by-elections in Labour-held seats of Bradford North and Bingley.

The Bank of England will be standing by this morning to support the pound if necessary in London. The resignation is bound to damage confidence in the markets, and both sterling and the stock market are likely to open sharply lower.

In New York, the pound fell to DM2.9250 pound, the lowest since Britain joined the exchange-rate mechanism last month, as the resignation was announced over the news-wires.

It then recovered a little to around 2.93, still a penny lower than the levels at which it was trading before the news broke.

There was little change against the dollar. Dealers said the reaction was muted as Sir Geoffrey was not regarded as a key government figure in economic terms. But the foreign exchanges were braced for a further reaction when the Asian markets opened.

Currency markets were already nervous about the prospect of an interest rate reduction, and sterling spent most of yesterday's trading session below the DM2.95 benchmark rate at which Britain entered the ERM.

Sir Geoffrey was responsible for the deeply "monetarist" 1981 budget, although it was always assumed that Nigel Lawson was the guiding hand behind the tough monetary stance.

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Leading article, page 17



Coded messages: Sir Geoffrey Howe exposed Tory raw nerves over Europe

US may risk war with food drop to envoys

From SUSAN ELLICOTT in WASHINGTON

THE United States, buoyed by this week's UN resolution demanding that Iraq allow deliveries of food and water to embassies in Kuwait, is considering sending food to the British and American missions at the risk of provoking war with Iraq.

President Bush has denied that his administration is seeking an excuse to launch an attack against Iraq. But his recent belligerent words have aroused fears that supplying the embassies, possibly by sending an unarmed ship to Kuwait or by dropping food into the compounds by air, could provoke action by Iraq and become the flashpoint.

"I am more determined that ever: this aggression will not stand," Mr Bush said yesterday. "The brutality against innocent citizens will not be tolerated." His hints that the America might send food to its embassy came after warnings from his administration this week that it would not hesitate to use force against Iraq if provoked.

In sharp contrast with earlier policy, Washington has for several days emphasised the plight of the US hostages - four of whom were released yesterday - suggesting that it is unwilling to see them suffer for longer.

The American ambassador, his deputy and 25 others in the compound are believed to have about three to four weeks' supplies of canned tuna, rice and well water. The two remaining British diplomats are living on a similar diet.

American officials have tried to play down the possibility of imminent conflict by emphasising that the growing war fever in the country is at odds with the

administration's preference for a peaceful Gulf solution, although the president has been sounding like a man preparing his country for war. "No one wants a peaceful end to this crisis more than I do," Mr Bush said in Massachusetts yesterday. "But no one is more determined to see this aggression turned back. And I will not change on that fundamental point of morality."

Baghdad continued to predict war and President Saddam yesterday met senior advisers for the second time in three days to discuss the prospects of conflict.

The official government daily, *al-Jumhuriya*, said that war would render the region a barren wasteland, turning the Gulf states back into the primitive desert societies that existed before the oil boom of the Seventies. "The Gulf region will return half a century

back. The Americans and other warmongers will be preoccupied with nothing but searching for remnants of their dead bodies in the desert and the Gulf."

The departure tomorrow of James Baker, the American Secretary of State, for a tour of Europe and the Gulf tomorrow has added to the war speculation. Mr Baker is expected to try to gauge how much support Washington would have from Arab countries for a war and whether they would support a UN resolution approving the use of force against Iraq.

Meanwhile, Moscow ruled out any new peace initiative by its special envoy, Yevgeni Primakov, who returned from Baghdad on Sunday after failing to persuade President Saddam to withdraw.

Hard protest, page 12

Britain in row with allies on hostages

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND ANDREW MCEWEN

FURTHER recriminations between Britain and her EC partners are certain following the encouragement of Willy Brandt's visit to Iraq by the German and Italian governments. The initiative was sharply criticised yesterday by the foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd.

Meanwhile Edward Heath, who recently visited Baghdad to secure the release of British hostages, urged Margaret Thatcher to dissociate herself from President Bush's latest verbal attack on Saddam Hussein. Mrs Thatcher was under-

stood to be bitterly depressed by the behaviour of the two governments and is expected to take an early opportunity to make her feelings plain.

Senior government sources inquired scornfully what the supposed drive for political union and a common foreign policy for the European Community was supposed to be all about when two of Britain's EC partners were undermining the agreement made in Rome to discourage the sending of individual hostage missions almost before

Continued on page 24, col 3

No-fault divorce plans shelved

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND FRANCES GIBB

THE government has shelved plans to include any "no-fault" divorce legislation in the Queen's Speech on the basis of radical proposals for an overhaul of divorce laws published yesterday.

Although Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is anxious to press on with reform for the sake of the 150,000 children affected by divorce each year, other ministers have been pressing for the government to be seen to distance itself from the proposals by the Law Commission. They have won the day after arguing that any legislation on the lines proposed by the Law Commission will require careful presentation if Conservative claims to be the party of the family are not to be further damaged after the child benefit controversy.

The government was forced earlier this year to drop divorce law reforms planned for Scotland and ministers believe that any plans to rush ahead with the Law Commission proposals would risk splitting the Conservative party in the Commons in what is likely to be an election year.

It is expected that the divorce reforms will now be absorbed into a package of family policies being prepared for the Conservative election manifesto.

Ann Widdecombe, Conservative MP for Maidstone, last night welcomed the proposals for divorce over time and for arrangements over children to be settled in advance but said that she would be totally against any further easing of divorce.

She said: "I strongly disapprove of no-fault divorce. One reason for the huge increase in the number of divorces has been the speed

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Saturday Review

On the road with Lenny



Stephen Sponder recalls a car journey across Fifties America made with Leonard Bernstein (above)

MacLaine, live in London



"I thought, oh, my God, they've been drinking since Thursday. I had to work." Shirley MacLaine, back on the boards and bound for a season in London

Wine for Christmas

Save money on two cases of French wine for Christmas, selected by Jane MacQuitty

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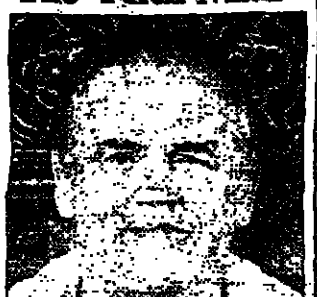
Polly Peck redundancies

Administrators running Polly Peck made 70 staff redundant at the group's fresh fruit and electronics headquarters. Yesterday, Asil Maqsood, its chairman, won leave to seek a judicial review of the Serious Fraud Office's refusal to tell him what alleged offences it is investigating. Page 25

Card offer

Discounts for cash purchases could be offered to credit card users from March next year after a ruling by the government. Page 3

The 'Fifth Man'



Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, the former Secretary to the Cabinet, says today in a letter to *The Times* that the recent testimony by the former KGB spy Oleg Gordievsky confirming that John Cairncross was the "Fifth Man" has totally destroyed the case for believing that Sir Roger Hollis, the former head of MI5, might have been a Russian agent. Letters, page 17

Roads proposal

Government attempts to recruit private sector capital for road transport infrastructure will step up next week when a proposal to increase privately-built roads and bridges will be unveiled. Page 6
Leading article, page 17

India clashes

Security forces battled to control Hindu-Muslim clashes in India yesterday as V.P. Singh, the prime minister, came under renewed pressure to resign. Page 11

Foul play

A crackdown on the so-called "professional foul" in football is threatening on referees' interpretation of this blight on the modern game. Page 48

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IRA 'safe houses' searched

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are carrying out a detailed search of two flats in Sudbury, northwest London, thought to have been used by IRA terrorists.

No arms or explosives have been uncovered although traces of explosives have been found at one of the flats. Police have also found false papers and documents although there are no signs of any target lists. One of the flats is known to have been rented by an unknown Irishwoman. Police believe that the addresses might have been used by members of IRA active service units.

Detectives have been working in the area for some time interviewing landlords of short-let premises. The active service units are suspected of using a network of temporary homes in London and the Midlands as cover from which to launch attacks.

Broadwater verdicts are studied

By QUENTIN COWDRY HOME
AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are considering "very carefully" claims that three men were wrongly convicted of the murder of PC Keith Blakelock in the Tottenham riot of 1985, John Patten, the Home Office minister, said yesterday.

David Waddington, the home secretary, would decide as soon as possible how to respond to the allegations, Mr Patten said. Mr Waddington can do one of three things: dismiss the evidence; refer the cases back to the Court of Appeal; or recommend a free or conditional pardon.

Lawyers for the so-called Broadwater Three - Winston Silcott, Engin Raghup and Mark Braithwaite - petitioned the Home Office earlier this year to reconsider the convictions after a BBC television documentary questioned the reliability of evidence against Raghup and Braithwaite.

US courts break frightening new ground

From CHARLES BREMNER
IN NEW YORK

NICELY timing its move for Halloween, the United States Supreme Court this week tackled a question now preoccupying lawyers throughout America: Can you sue someone for scaring the wits out of you and if so for how much?

Suits for "emotional distress" have multiplied over the past couple of years as citizens have won ever bigger sums from juries who believed they merited compensation for unpleasant experiences that caused no bodily injury. Indeed, if war breaks out in the Gulf it can be only a matter of time, legal experts say, before the courts are faced with litigation by bereaved families and traumatised GIs.

Among notable recent cases, an oil engineer in Louisiana took home

\$125,000 (£64,500) for the embarrassment he endured when his employer asked him to submit a urine sample for a drug test which he failed. In a California case a couple won heavy damages for the nightmares they suffered after witnessing a fatal accident on a cable car at Palm Springs.

In another variation, emotional distress was an element in a suit brought on Wednesday by a group of homeless people against the city authorities for failing to provide enough public lavatories.

The test case chosen by the Supreme Court involves air travel, the biggest and potentially most lucrative field for emotional distress. A Minnesota jury recently gave \$50,000 to a passenger on a TWA flight whose pilots temporarily lost control of the aircraft. Now the supreme court is

considering a suit by passengers who were terrified for ten minutes when all three engines failed on an Eastern Airlines flight from Miami to the Bahamas. The pilots restarted one engine and landed safely.

An Atlanta court has already ruled that the plaintiffs are entitled to millions of dollars in damages. The supreme court's decision will have enormous consequences for the liability of all airlines carrying Americans.

Joel Eaton, the passengers' lawyer, told the court the airline had inflicted a terrifying experience on its customers that had resulted in lasting psychic damage. The lawyer for Eastern Airlines said that a ruling for the passengers would bring a deluge of suits from passengers every time they suffered turbulence or a mechanical problem in flight. "They can say:

"When you shut down that engine, it sure scared me." Appearing to share that view, Justice Thurgood Marshall commented: "I've been on a half-dozen planes where the engines fell out. Do I get some money?"

Insurance companies particularly are watching the case nervously. If the court finds for the passengers, it will reinforce the new concept of "zone of danger", devised by plaintiff lawyers who argue that a big fright from proximity to an accident or other misfortune is as bad as bodily injury.

Larry Bodine, publisher of *Lawyer's Almanac* magazine said: "It could mean that anyone who sees a tragedy could sue for emotional distress." Robert Wilmore, a former official with the Justice Department wondered: "Can we sue a driver who almost hit us? Where does it stop?"

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Discounts for cash next year bring dual pricing closer

By DAVID YOUNG

SHOPPERS could be offered discounts on cash purchases or asked to pay a surcharge for using credit cards from March 1, next year.

John Redwood, corporate affairs minister, said yesterday that traders would be allowed to charge different prices, in line with a Monopolies Commission recommendation last year.

"We have taken measures to strengthen competition, which we hope will produce a better deal for customers in the shops and a better deal for those who use credit cards in respect of the range and choice of cards on offer and the charges for those cards."

He said he was not sure if many retailers would take

advantage of the opportunity to have differential prices.

"Some might decide it's a good idea to offer cash discounts to customers who don't use credit cards, others might decide that it's too complicated," Mr Redwood said. "If competition between credit card companies built up, the effect on prices would be 'very small indeed'."

Major oil companies and the large high street chains are likely to resist any two-tier pricing systems. BP will leave any decision to operators of its filling station chain, but is advising against change. Petrol company customers are the most frequent users of "plastic money". Companies said that they already sub-

sidised dealers' acceptance of credit cards. The Retail Consortium, whose members handle about 90 per cent of shopping business, welcomed the announcement, but Mike Wilsey, assistant director, said: "For most retailers it will not make any difference. They will not apply differential pricing because it would be too much of an administrative headache."

Mr Redwood also implemented another Monopolies Commission recommendation, which should open up the market for companies wishing to act as card payment processors by lifting restrictions imposed by the card issuers. He said: "The order should allow more banks and financial institutions to come into the credit card business and enhance competition."

Visa International said that a number of American states had introduced similar schemes in recent years but they had not been widely accepted. Visa has about 25 million payment cards on issue, almost 18 million of which are credit cards.

The National Consumer Council said the announcement would be "marvellous" if it resulted in discounts for cash-paying customers. A spokesman said: "This is what we have been pressing for, but we hope retailers will not interpret the move in the other way and use it as an excuse to surcharge credit card payers."

W H Smith's Do It All division is to appeal against a £10,000 fine imposed yesterday by Huddersfield magistrates for unlawful Sunday trading. It said it would do so because of continuing legal uncertainty on the issue.

The company was also ordered to pay costs of £6,238.94 in a case which started in 1986.

Car sale finance agreements fall

THE number of credit agreements taken out to buy new cars has fallen for the first time in more than five years (Kevin Eason writes).

Figures from HPI Information, the finance information group, show that the number of new car buyers taking out instalment finance fell by 2.1 per cent in the third quarter of the year.

HPI said that buyers were struggling to meet repayments as interest rates remained high. It said that car companies such as Fiat, which was offering zero per cent finance, were among those to enjoy substantial increases in credit business.

The finance-monitoring company believes that buyers are switching to cheaper models as interest rates bite.

CAP Nationwide, the national research group, has is-

sued a warning that high prices in Britain compared with the rest of the European Community, allied to high-interest repayments were forcing private and company buyers to look for good value second-hand cars instead of new ones.

CAP said: "It is now obvious to most of the car-buying public that prices here are now far in excess of the rest of the EC. These high prices are now unpalatable to the retail buyer and unacceptable to the fleet purchaser."

Company car buyers, the research group said, now preferred to buy relatively recent used models, especially G-registered cars instead of the current H-registered models. Company fleets account for half of all new car sales in Britain amounting to £10 billion a year.

On the road again: Lenihan, with an eye to the presidency, receives a hero's welcome from the party faithful on the streets of Dublin yesterday

Unbowed Lenihan on election trail

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT



Robinson: presidency "not a consolation prize"

THE "sympathy campaign" for Brian Lenihan, the Fianna Fáil presidential candidate dismissed from the Irish cabinet, began in earnest yesterday with a show of force on the streets of Dublin.

Mr Lenihan was swept like a hero on the shoulders of his supporters down O'Connell Street, the capital's main thoroughfare, surrounded by hundreds of the Fianna Fáil faithful. Many in the party feel that he was shabbily treated by Mr Haughey who, they believe, sacrificed him to save his own career. To

those on the streets yesterday, allegations that Mr Lenihan lied are of no consequence and do not disqualify him from the presidency. One young woman, voicing the views of many, said: "They (politicians) are all liars anyway - who'd expect any different?"

In spite of the latest opinion polls, which show a big swing away from Mr Lenihan in favour of Mary Robinson, the independent candidate, who is 19 points ahead of him, Mr Lenihan is convinced that he can still win. Those who bet thousands of pounds on him at the bookmakers yesterday seem to be equally convinced. Mr Lenihan said:

"There are seven days to go, and in that time I expect to climb back to the position I was in a week ago." On the advice of his family, he had refused to resign, forcing Mr Haughey to dismiss him. Mr Lenihan said he expected Mr Haughey to campaign on his behalf, and there was no bitterness between them.

Mrs Robinson said that people would distinguish between their sympathy for Mr Lenihan, which she shared, and the question of who should be president. "They don't see the office of president as being some kind of consolation prize. People are taking it much more seriously."

Marconi note 'seen as bomb'

By JAMIE DETTMER

A COMPANY memorandum criticising profits made by Marconi for contract work worth over £1 million with the Ministry of Defence was greeted by senior executives as if it were a hand grenade, a court was told yesterday.

Kingsley Thrower, a senior contracts manager at Marconi, said that the profit on several contracts was not justified. Mr Thrower, aged 57, later reported Marconi to the police.

He told Winchester Crown Court that costs were transferred from completed contracts to new ones to disguise excessive profit-making.

Mr Thrower said that he wrote the memorandum after a pricing meeting with ministry representatives and that it was a "brief appraisal of what was coming to light".

Marconi and 14 executives deny 19 charges of theft, false accounting and deception. The prosecution claims that they stole equipment paid for by the ministry and made £300,000 in excessive profits on contracts worth £1.4 million.

Mr Thrower, who was made redundant by Marconi, denied a claim by William Denny, QC, for Marconi, that he had "laid on the brain". He admitted that he was writing a book on his time at Marconi. The case continues today.

Marsh will not give evidence

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TERRY Marsh, the former world boxing champion, will not give evidence in his defence over the alleged shooting of his manager, Frank Warren.

Richard Ferguson, QC, for Mr Marsh, told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he would be calling no evidence in the case after the conclusion of prosecution evidence. The jury was sent home until Monday, when closing speeches will begin. Mr Marsh denies the attempted murder of Mr Warren.

Earlier the police officer in charge of the investigation disclosed that a convicted criminal who had given evidence against Marsh had the assistance he gave taken into account when he appeared for sentence in another case. Peter Harris, who was using an alias, alleged earlier this week that Mr Marsh confessed to shooting his manager when the two prisoners were on remand.

Mr Ferguson accused Harris of lying in the witness box and suggested that by offering to give evidence against Mr Marsh he had sought to earn himself a lighter sentence in his own case. Detective Superintendent Jeffrey Rees told the court: "I can confirm that the fact he gave information was brought to the attention of the judge. I don't think Mr Marsh's name was mentioned."

Clerics consider overhaul of archaic cathedral rules

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

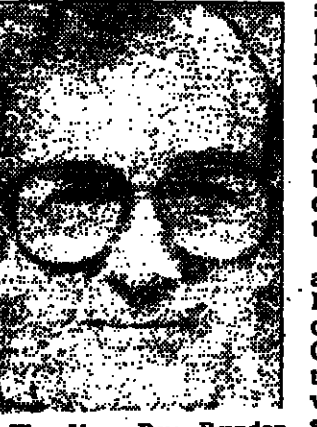
SENIOR clerics in the Church of England have formed a working party that could herald the most far-reaching changes to the organisation of cathedrals for centuries.

Cathedral deans and provosts are to re-examine the way many cathedrals are in thrall to ancient statutes and traditions.

The working party has been set up in the aftermath of the Lincoln cathedral saga, in which the Bishop of Lincoln asked his four residentiary canons "very seriously to consider their positions". The cathedral chapter had tried to raise funds by sending its Magna Carta, one of only four contemporary versions, to an exhibition in Australia in 1988. The venture eventually cost the cathedral £56,000. None of the canons is planning to resign.

The working party, chaired by the Very Rev Dr Wesley Carr, dean of Bristol, will meet for the first time later this month at the deanery at Westminster Abbey.

The Very Rev Michael Mayne, dean of Westminster, is considered an impartial referee because the abbey, is



The Very Rev Brandon Jackson, dean of Lincoln under the personal jurisdiction of the Queen.

The Very Rev Brandon Jackson, dean of Lincoln, disclosed the formation of the working party in his latest chapter letter. Mr Jackson says: "The changes that will issue out of Lincoln's pain will affect the whole of the structure of English cathedrals."

The working party was set up following the Deans' and Provosts' Conference meeting in the Chapter House at St Paul's, London. Mr Jackson says: "Recognising the urgent need for a new constitution for cathedrals, that our ancient

statutes are no longer appropriate for these great multi-million religious foundations, we have set up a working party to consider how best we can revise the structures for government, both for efficiency but above all for the mission of God's Kingdom in and through our cathedrals."

The admonition to the dean and chapter delivered by The Rt Rev Robert Hardy, bishop of Lincoln, over the Magna Carta affair, complained that the residentiary canons had viewed ideas and principles spelled out many centuries ago as "protective and restrictive".

The residentiary canons had complained that the dean had acted in contravention of the Laudian of Bishop Alnwick, a disciplinary judgment delivered in 1439, and of the statutes, usurping the powers belonging to the individual canons or the dean and chapter jointly.

Each cathedral has its own individual constitution and statutes. Although all were revised under the 1963 Cathedral Measure, many anomalies and archaic rules survive. The working party could initiate a wholesale review of freehold positions.

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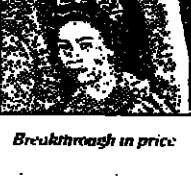
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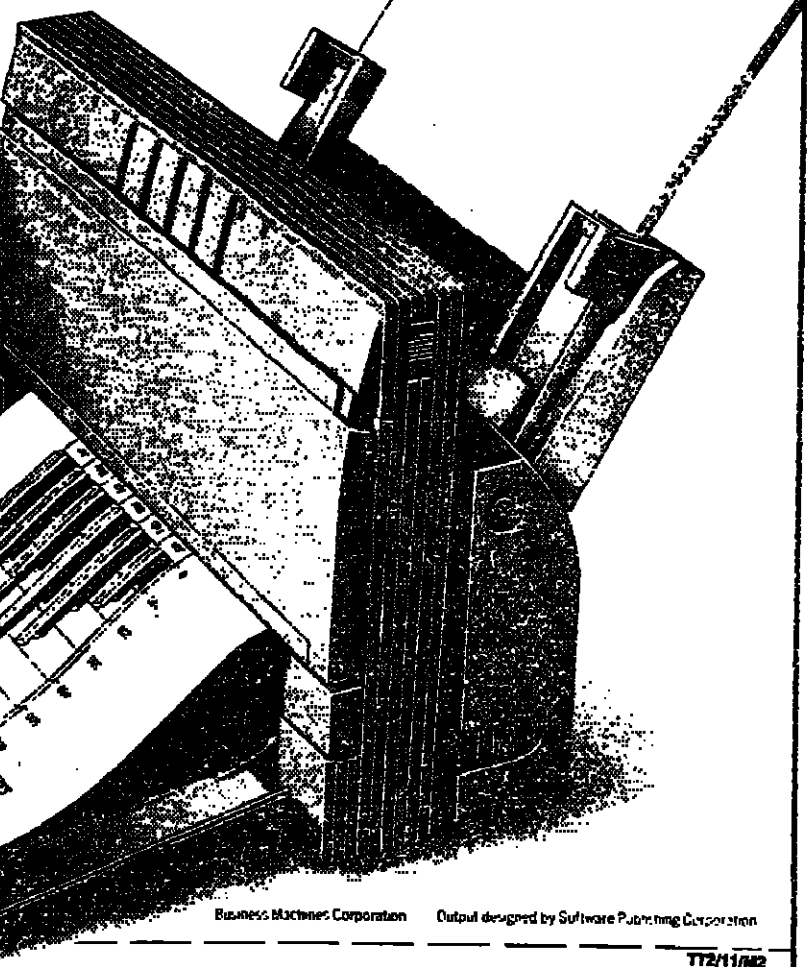


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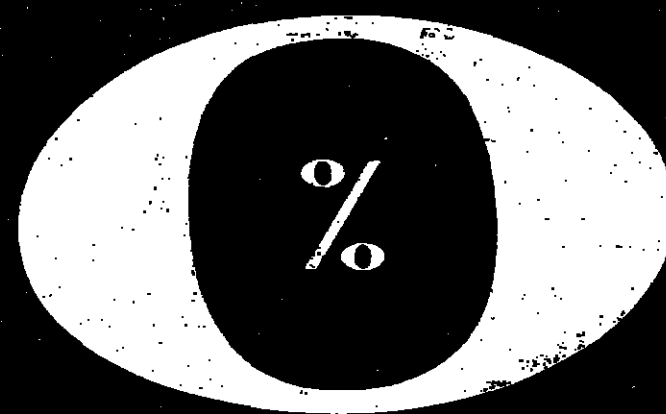


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All Renault cars have 12 month/ unlimited mileage warranty with free RAC membership plus a 6 year anti-rust-corrosion warranty. Prices, correct at time of going to press, include VAT and Car Tax. *Free on-the-road price includes free delivery, number plates and 6 months road fund licence, but excludes optional extras and insurance. Offer available on any new Renault ordered and registered before 31 December 1990 (while stocks last) at participating Renault Dealers. Finance offers subject to credit status, apply to any new Renault 5 or Renault 19 ordered and registered before 31 December 1990. (Offer does not include Channel jobs or title of Man.) Written quotations available on request. Dealer prices provided by Renault. Sources: Ltd. NWS House, City Road, Chester X, CH99 3AH. *Cars shown, cash prices, in g.p. "on the road" costs. Renault 5 GT Turbo £10,890, Renault 5 Campus 3-dr £6,140, Renault 5 Campus 3-dr £6,480, Renault 19 TRE £11,000, with optional alloy wheels £275, Renault 19 Climax £11,150, with optional alloy wheels £275. **RENAULT** recommended **shell** oil.

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AN OVERVIEW of the Law in England and Wales, which the author has scrapped and re-written as a concise and readable proposal for the new minimum standard for removing the "unpleasant" healthiest of people from present legal systems. The author explains the reasons for the removal of the "unpleasant" people from the legal system, and the fact that the law is not a "victim" of the "unpleasant" and "unpleasant" people. The author explains the reasons for the removal of the "unpleasant" and "unpleasant" people from the legal system, and the fact that the law is not a "victim" of the "unpleasant" and "unpleasant" people.

Social intern

THE British have the high divorce rate in Europe, with one in three marriages ending up in court. These figures stem from statistics indicating that there have more to do with the custom than with law.

Divorce in Spain is relatively new. In 1942, when Franco came to power in 1939, there was no divorce. The wealthy and powerful could get an annulment, but the Roman Catholic Church but there was no legal ground for the ordinary couple and marriage was on the rocks.

In 1981, however, Spain introduced one of the easiest divorce procedures in Europe. Provided there is mutual consent, divorce can take only a couple of months. Yet Spain still has one of the low divorce rates, at only 4.5 per cent of marriages.

In France, divorce for both sexes was legalised in 1975 during the revolution. Two out of three people who are married in 1975 will be divorced by 1979, when there is a year of mutual consent, easier and there was no need for an estate agent to organise a police raid on matrimonial property. Some 20 per cent of marriages

Dyslexia research unveiled

A £250,000 research programme into dyslexia is announced yesterday by Mr Howarth, a junior education minister. The three-year project will monitor the way all dyslexic children. Mr Howarth made the announcement at the Fiat technology village, Crayford, south London, where the programme will be carried out. The project was launched last year to help all dyslexic children. "We are looking to build up a valuable bank that is about taking place elsewhere and compare findings," he said. One feature of the programme will be the research on the possible use of computers for victims of dyslexia, a form of word blindness. The British Dyslexia Association estimates 550,000 children have reading difficulties but fewer than one in 20 are specialist help.

Law Commission report on divorce reform

Mediation urged to remove acrimony

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN OVERHAUL of divorce law in England and Wales, in which the role of fault is scrapped and divorce becomes a one-year process, was proposed by the Law Commission yesterday.

The reforms are intended to remove the acrimony and hostility engendered by the present fault-based laws in which couples are forced to "separate or recriminate". In a reversal of the present law, couples would be obliged to consider the future and to make arrangements for children, the home and money before being granted a divorce. At present, decrees in uncontested divorces can be obtained within six months, with disputes over children and finance coming afterwards.

There will be a bigger role for conciliation and mediation services in helping couples sort out their problems, and probably a correspondingly smaller role for lawyers. Brenda Hoggett, QC, the law commissioner in charge of the divorce law team, said yesterday: "The totality of these proposals is not to make divorce either easier or harder. It is simply quite radically different and, in our view, a great deal better."

The reforms are being put forward at a time of widespread concern at the rate of divorce and its effects on couples and children. Last year, 150,872 couples divorced in England and Wales, affecting 150,000 children under 16. The present law has been widely criticised as making matters worse: it is confusing, misleading, discriminatory and unjust, provokes hostility and bitterness and drives couples into entrenched positions.

Under the new proposals, the sole ground for divorce should remain that the marriage has irretrievably broken down, and this would be proved by the passage of a 12-month minimum period of consolidation and reflection in which couples could use conciliation, counselling and mediation services. Professor

Hoggett said that this period was not to be a passive waiting period. "It should be put to good use, exchanging information about the children, finances and property and making proposals about what would happen to them in the event of the couple being divorced." It would also give them a chance to reflect and to decide if the breakdown was irretrievable. If, after 12 months, both accepted this was the case, this was solid evidence of the breakdown.

Counselling or conciliation would not be compulsory. "People offering these services do not want to offer them to conscripts," Professor Hoggett said. The court would have power to refer people for an interview, although these will not be sanctions if they refuse.

Although the aim is to move away from fault, fault might still be a factor if relevant in reaching decisions on the children, home or finances. Courts would have power to give orders to protect spouses against violence or other molestation and to decide who should remain in the matrimonial home during the 12 months. Making suitable arrangements for the future would not be a prerequisite of every divorce, because some people might exploit that for vindictive purposes, the commission says. Courts would have power to postpone a divorce if it was thought desirable to ensure such



Hoggett: aim not to make divorce easier or harder



Marriage guidance: a bigger role is planned for conciliation services in helping couples sort out their problems

arrangements were made. In a minority of extreme cases where a divorce would cause serious financial or other hardship to one spouse, the courts could prohibit a divorce. Either spouse could initiate the new divorce process or do so jointly.

There is widespread support for "consensual" divorce, with the couple being encouraged from the outset to take joint responsibility for the divorce. This would be done by a sworn statement, made by one or both parties, that he, she or they believed that the marital relationship had broken down and wished to consider the arrangements for the future. This would be sworn before a court official or commissioner for oaths and lodged at a court. The statement would be on a special form, giving details of the children, home and finances.

Both parties would then receive an information pack from the court, explaining the 12-month period and the procedures during it, the legal

effects of divorce and separation, powers of the court and purposes of counselling, conciliation and mediation services that are available.

The beginning of the process would be recorded to prevent deception. The couple need not separate if they did not wish to and the decision of separating or divorcing would be made towards the end of the 12-months when an app-

lication is made towards the court. After three months, the court would monitor progress. Conciliators would have to report back to the court on the outcome of the meeting.

Courts would also have power to adjourn a particular issue to enable the parties to resolve it amicably. Any such adjournment would be a fixed period, to avoid either party using it as a delaying tactic. At

the end of 11 months, if the arrangements have been made, either party could apply for a divorce or separation order, which would be granted within one month. The court will, however, be able to postpone the divorce for any reason.

Family Law: the Ground for Divorce (Law Commission, Stationery Office, £15)

Video exposes Spain's cruel abattoirs

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH livestock could suffer barbaric deaths in Spanish slaughterhouses when the single market is introduced in the European Community after 1992, an animal rights group said yesterday. At present, Britain bans the export of live animals to Spain and Portugal on welfare grounds.

Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) has taken video film of conditions inside two Spanish slaughterhouses, which shows sheep having their throats slit after being hung up by a hind leg without any pre-stunning to render them unconscious. Cattle are shown being slaughtered after having been only imperfectly stunned.

Tim Armstrong, who took the film, said: "These are barbaric methods completely contrary to EC law. The film shows the importance of abolishing the export of live animals, as we have no control over where they will end up once they leave this country."

David Bee, a veterinary surgeon, said that he was horrified by the film, which is the most graphic evidence so far of the conditions in some Spanish abattoirs. CIWF is to hand over a copy of the video to John Gummer, agriculture minister, today and urge him to maintain curbs on the export of animals to Spain.

Under EC and British law, livestock must be stunned with electric tongs or a captive bolt pistol, which fires a retractable metal rod directly into the brain, before they are shackled by a hind leg and hung upside down to have their throats cut. The only exception allowed is for Jewish and Muslim religious slaughter. The Spanish slaughtermen are shown using a captive bolt

pistol on cattle, but in such a way as merely to immobilise the animals while leaving them at least partially conscious and able to feel pain, according to the animal rights group. "They fire into the base of the neck, so as to hit the spinal cord, instead of directly into the brain from the front," Mr Armstrong said. "Sometimes they would need two or three shots."

The Spanish slaughtermen told him that sheep and cattle brains were a delicacy in Spain, Mr Armstrong said, and that they did not want to use any stunning method that would damage the brain. "There are scenes on the video where the cows are having their throats cut and groaning very audibly. The sound only starts to die away as they bleed to death."

Mr Armstrong managed to talk his way inside the Valdetorres del Jarama abattoir near Madrid, where sheep were being slaughtered, and the Afraso Val Mojado slaughterhouse at Toledo, where cattle were being killed.

He said that, at the Toledo slaughterhouse a veterinary surgeon was present throughout but made no attempt to ensure proper treatment of the animals. "He was only concerned about whether the animals had had tuberculosis and took no interest in their welfare prior to slaughter at all."

The agriculture ministry yesterday said that there could be legal difficulties in preventing the export of live animals to Spain and Portugal after 1992. "That is why Mr Gummer is pressing for uniform welfare standards to be enforced throughout the Community before the advent of the single market."

Social customs colour international statistics

By ALICE THOMSON

THE British have the highest divorce rate in Europe, with one in three marriages ending up in court. However, divorce statistics internationally often have more to do with social custom than with law.

Divorce in Spain is relatively new. For 42 years after Franco came to power in 1939, there was no divorce. The wealthy and influential could get an annulment from the Roman Catholic church, but there was no legal solution for the ordinary couple whose marriage was on the rocks.

In 1981, however, Spain introduced one of the easiest divorce procedures in Europe. Provided there is mutual consent, divorce can take only a couple of months. Yet Spain still has one of the lowest divorce rates, at only 6 per cent of marriages.

In France, divorce for adultery was legalised in 1792 during the revolution. The number of people divorcing doubled in 1975 when divorce by mutual consent became easier and there was no longer a need for an irate spouse to organise a police raid to prove misbehaviour. Some 28 per cent of marriages end in

divorce in France. Violence is the most regularly cited reason, and women demand divorce more often than men.

In Germany, the law was changed in 1977 to allow a divorce if a marriage had failed, deemed to have happened after a couple had lived apart for a year where both partners want a divorce, or for three years where only one partner wants a divorce. A strong back-up system of private and state counselling has an 80 per cent success rate in resolving problems of property and access to children. About 2.3 million people are divorced in Germany, and

Divorces per 1,000 marriages

UK	12.8
Denmark	12.8
Netherlands	8.7
France	8.5
Germany	8.3
Belgium	7.3
Luxembourg	6.4
Greece	2.5
Norway	2.1
Italy	1.1
Spain	0.5
Portugal	0.4
Ireland	0

couples are increasingly opting to live together.

At 9 per cent, Italy has one of the lowest divorce rates in Europe; divorce was legalised in 1975, but few broken marriages end in the courts, especially in the south. Also, four out of five divorced Italians remarry.

In Norway, infidelity by one partner was grounds for immediate divorce until the law was changed last year, because so many couples fabricated affairs to get an easy divorce. Now divorce is automatic after a year if both partners consent; if only one wants a divorce, it takes two years.

There are no grounds for divorce in Ireland, although in rare cases a marriage can be annulled for special reasons through the Catholic church. Divorce was rejected in a referendum in 1986.

In predominantly Catholic countries in eastern Europe, divorce was a contentious issue under communist rule. The old regime in Poland permitted "quickie" divorces in local courts. The Solidarity-led government has made the procedure more difficult and limited it to regional courts.

Dyslexia research unveiled

A £250,000 research programme into dyslexia was announced yesterday by Alan Howarth, a junior education minister. The three-year project will monitor the work of 20 dyslexic children.

Mr Howarth made the announcement at the Harris city technology college, in Croydon, south London, where the programme will be carried out. The project would have far-reaching benefits for all dyslexic children, he said. "We are looking to build upon valuable work that is already taking place elsewhere and to compare findings."

One feature of the programme will be research on the possible benefits of computers for victims of dyslexia, a form of word blindness. The British Dyslexia Association estimates 350,000 children have reading difficulties but fewer than one in 30 gets specialist help.

Calcutt criticised by Press Council

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Press Council has attacked as "seriously flawed" the proposal that the new Press Complaints Commission, which replaces it in January, should deal solely with the adjudication of complaints and not with the defence of press freedom.

The Press Council said that the central flaw of the Calcutt report into privacy and the press was its decision that the roles of handling complaints and defending press freedom were incompatible.

A report of a Press Council working party said: "For 37 years the two roles have been complementary, necessary counterparts of each other. Judging complaints about the content of newspapers and the conduct of journalists frequently involves weighing the claims of press freedom and press responsibility."

"In a free society the exis-

tence of a body to investigate the press is only tolerable if the same body has a continuing duty to defend the freedom of the press in the interests of the public. If the Calcutt recommendation is implemented, no single organisation would be charged with that role."

Lord McGregor of Durris, who is to be the first chairman of the complaints commission, said: "I think Calcutt was mistaken in the sharp antithesis it drew between a body dealing with complaints and a body dealing with press freedom."

"To deal effectively with complaints... is an important contribution to the maintenance of press freedom."

Scottish newspaper editors will urge the government today not to extend to Scotland anti-intrusion laws proposed by the Calcutt committee.

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Government action urged on plight of child refugees

By BILL FROST

TRAUMATISED child refugees arriving in Britain from Eritrea have been subjected to the most appalling treatment and government neglect, relief agencies said yesterday.

Michael Feeney, refugee officer for the Roman Catholic diocese of Westminster, said that many of the children had endured more damaging experiences since coming to this country than they faced at home in a war zone. Since the end of August, about 225 young Eritreans have arrived on visitors' visas. Their parents sold everything to buy airline tickets knowing that if their children stayed they would be conscripted into the Ethiopian army to fight their own people.

The refugees, some as young as 11, have been arriving at Heathrow and Gatwick terrified and all but penniless. "Some have been picked up by social workers, some have befriended passengers on the flight and asked for shelter, but others have had to fend for themselves as best they can in a country which must scare

and confuse them," Mr Feeney said. The British Refugee Council has urged the government to set up reception centres for unaccompanied young people arriving in Britain. Responsibility for such exiles rests with local authority social services departments, many of which say that they cannot cope with the financial burden.

Fourteen young Eritreans who arrived at the end of August spent two months living unsupervised in the cold, damp crypt of a church in Hackney, east London. They are now being cared for at a hostel run by Mr Feeney.

Camden, one of several London boroughs to have accepted the refugees, estimates that an extra £750,000 will have to be found to pay for their care over the present financial year. The council said the government had a responsibility to act and it was indefensible to let them just wander the streets of London.

The Home Office and the health department said last night that ministers fully understood the concerns expressed, and the difficulties presented by "an influx of this kind". The government would be issuing guidelines to local authorities on their legal obligations to care for young refugees and seeking further information about possible future arrivals from Eritrea.

FBI 'committed to Lockerbie hunt'

WILLIAM Sessions, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, last night said that he was optimistic that the terrorists who bombed Pan Am Flight 103, which blew up over Lockerbie killing 270 people, will be caught (Kerry Gill writes).

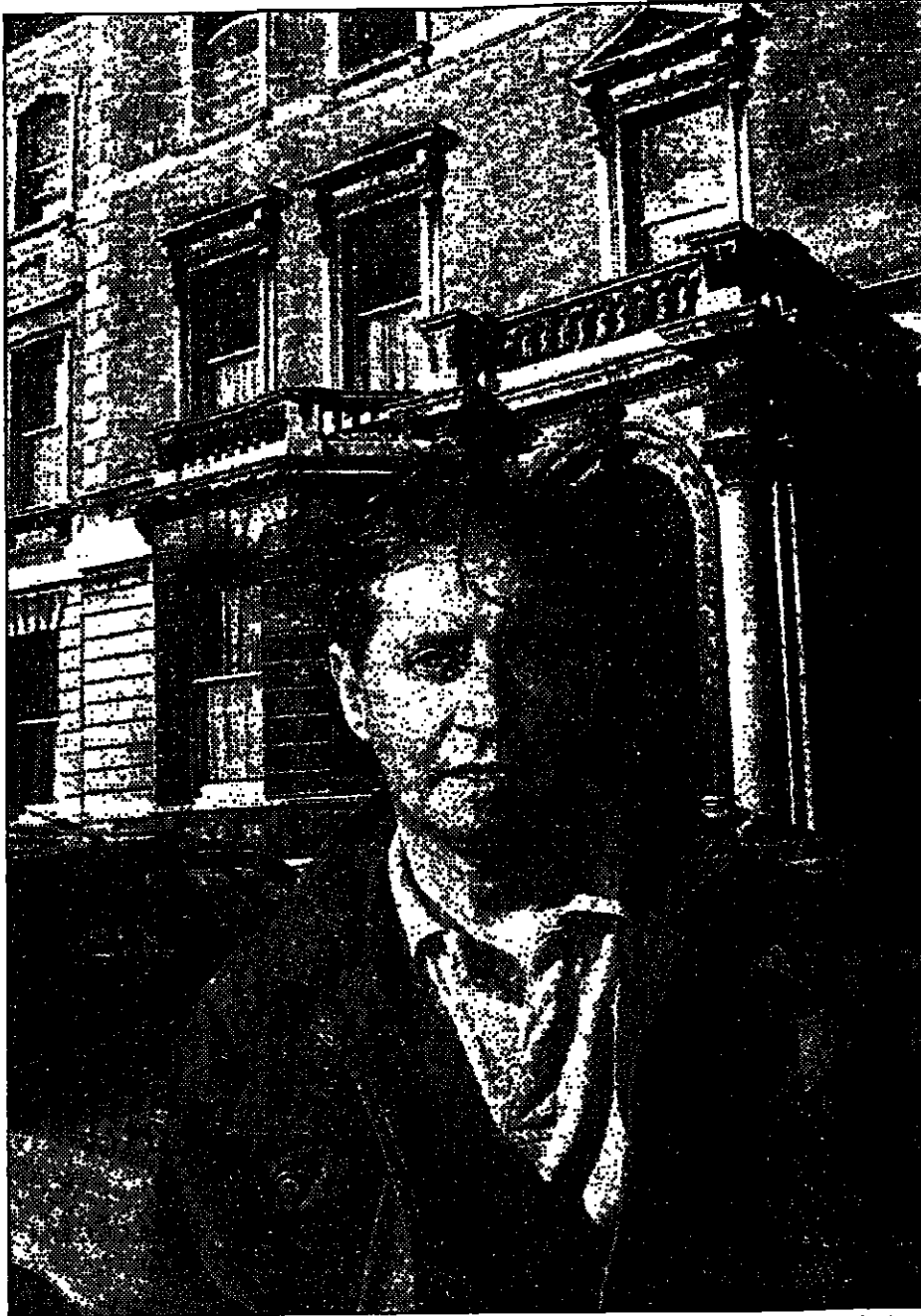
Mr Sessions pledged that the FBI would work on the case until it was solved. "You have my assurance that we will not cease our efforts," he said, giving the James Smart lecture to police officers, lawyers and judges in Glasgow.

International co-operation among investigators since the

disaster, in December 1988, had been unprecedented, and he was "strongly optimistic that this horrendous crime will be solved and those responsible brought to justice".

Mr Sessions gave a warning that the single European market would give international criminals new opportunities. If border controls went, so would the means of tracking terrorists moving from one country to another, he said.

Security men guarding Flight 103 at Heathrow knew nothing of a warning of radio cassette bombs, the Lockerbie enquiry was told yesterday.



Helping hand: Michael Feeney at the London hostel which has become home for young refugees some of whom lived unsupervised for two months in a crypt

Cabinet seeking more private cash for roads

The government wants the private sector to finance construction of roads and bridges, in return for the right to levy tolls. Michael Dynes investigates

GOVERNMENT attempts to recruit private-sector capital for a new transport infrastructure will step up next week when a proposal to increase privately built roads and bridges will be unveiled.

The move could lead, in the long term, to the creation of a private-sector trunk road and motorway network, designed to supplement existing public roads and financed by user tolls.

The proposal, which is to be announced in the Queen's Speech, was first suggested in the 1989 green paper, *New Roads By New Means*, and will effectively breach the principle that roads are free at the point of use, established after the demise of turnpikes in the 19th century. The aim is to reduce the financial burden at present shouldered by the taxpayer by transferring the risk of rising construction costs to private-sector companies. In return, such companies would be able to make an appropriate profit by levying user tolls.

Under the plan, new legislation would establish the principle that roads and bridges should, where possible, be built by the private sector, thereby eliminating the need to secure parliamentary approval for individual toll road schemes as they arise.

In spite of widespread scepticism about the viability of extending the frontiers of the free market into the provision of transport infrastructure, the government already has ten privately financed road and bridge schemes on the agenda.

They include the new Dartford-Thurrock crossing, which will complete the M25 orbital motorway; the proposed second Severn crossing; the Birmingham northern relief road (BNRR), designed to relieve congestion on the M6; new motorways linking the M25 to Chelmsford and Rayleigh; and additional estuarial crossings on the Thames, the Mersey, and the Tamar.

The idea stems from the government's success in persuading the private sector to assume responsibility for the building and financing of the Channel tunnel. Applying the same principle to inland roads and bridges, however, causes additional headaches.

New estuarial crossings financed by the private sector are a relatively risk-free undertaking. The consortium building and financing the £86 million Dartford crossing, for example, knows that its quasi-

monopolistic position almost guarantees the necessary return on its investment. In addition, tolls for estuarial crossings are generally accepted by road users.

Privately financed toll roads, such as the proposed BNRR, which would have to compete with existing public roads, will get no such guarantees. Indeed, the banks and construction companies could find themselves in the unenviable position whereby the toll road attracts enough traffic to relieve congestion on the public road, without generating the revenue required for them to recoup the cost of construction.

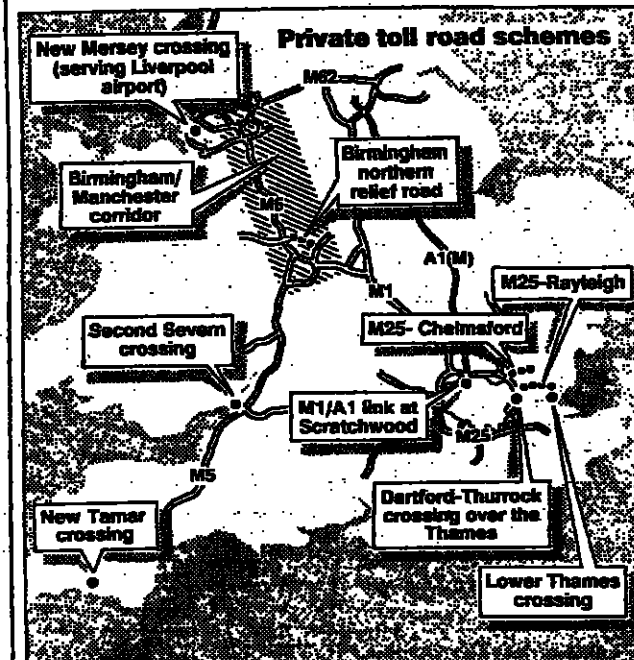
Although the government has ruled out the possibility of creating inland quasi-monopolies by handing over adjacent public roads to the private sector, the construction industry is nonetheless taking the idea seriously. The transport department is at present examining bids from three competing consortia, led by Trafalgar House, Tarmac, and Manufacturers Hanover, for the BNRR scheme, estimated to cost £250 million.

The viability of the project will be the acid test of attempts to recruit private capital into a hitherto exclusively public domain. Even more ambitious, however, is the government's efforts to encourage the private sector to produce proposals for road schemes, rather than simply taking on the risk of working on projects already contained in the national road-building programme.

Last year, after identifying a broad corridor running between Birmingham and Manchester, the government challenged the private sector to come up with its own ideas for new roads to reduce congestion between the two cities. As a result, confidential proposals have already been submitted by the Trafalgar House, Tarmac, Manufacturers Hanover and Balfour Beatty groups.

The British experiment is being viewed with intense interest in Eastern Europe, where the fledgling democracies are searching for ways in which they can rehabilitate their own neglected transport infrastructures. Critics predict a bitter controversy, however, if road users, who already pay about £4 for every £1 invested in roads, are confronted with more road charges.

Leading article, page 17



Buses are 'solution to jams'

CHRONIC urban traffic congestion could be reduced within months by the introduction of modern bus systems, an organisation representing the bus and coach industry said yesterday (Michael Dynes writes).

The Bus and Coach Council said that such a system, including a comprehensive network of priority bus lanes, bus-only roads and priority for buses at traffic lights, would cost much less than new urban road or rail systems, and could be implemented far more quickly.

Outlining a £17.5 million plan to promote the bus, the council called for the creation of a team to identify locations for pilot projects. The schemes could be financed jointly by the bus and coach industry, local authorities and the Department of Transport, and implemented by the spring of 1991, the council said. It would expect significant results by 1992.

The project would together cost less than half the £40 million wasted daily by traffic problems nationwide, and less than one of the proposed light rail projects, it added.

BA to make cheap seats sweeter

BRITISH Airways is to give its economy class passengers boiled sweets as part of a £70 million project to improve the lot of those who sit at the back of the aircraft (Harvey Elliott writes).

The airline will also try to persuade more passengers to move up to business and first class. Some BA staff fear, however, that if economy is improved too much many business travellers will choose the lowest fare, knowing that they will get the service and comfort normally reserved for those paying more. There are signs that recent price increases have made many companies tell employees to travel economy class.

The boiled sweets were phased out when pressurised jet aircraft were introduced, but research has shown they are regarded as an important extra by many first time flyers. In addition, British Airways is to introduce more hot food, better seats, free newspapers and improved in-flight entertainment for economy passengers. The name "economy" is also being dropped in favour of "world traveller" and "euro traveller".

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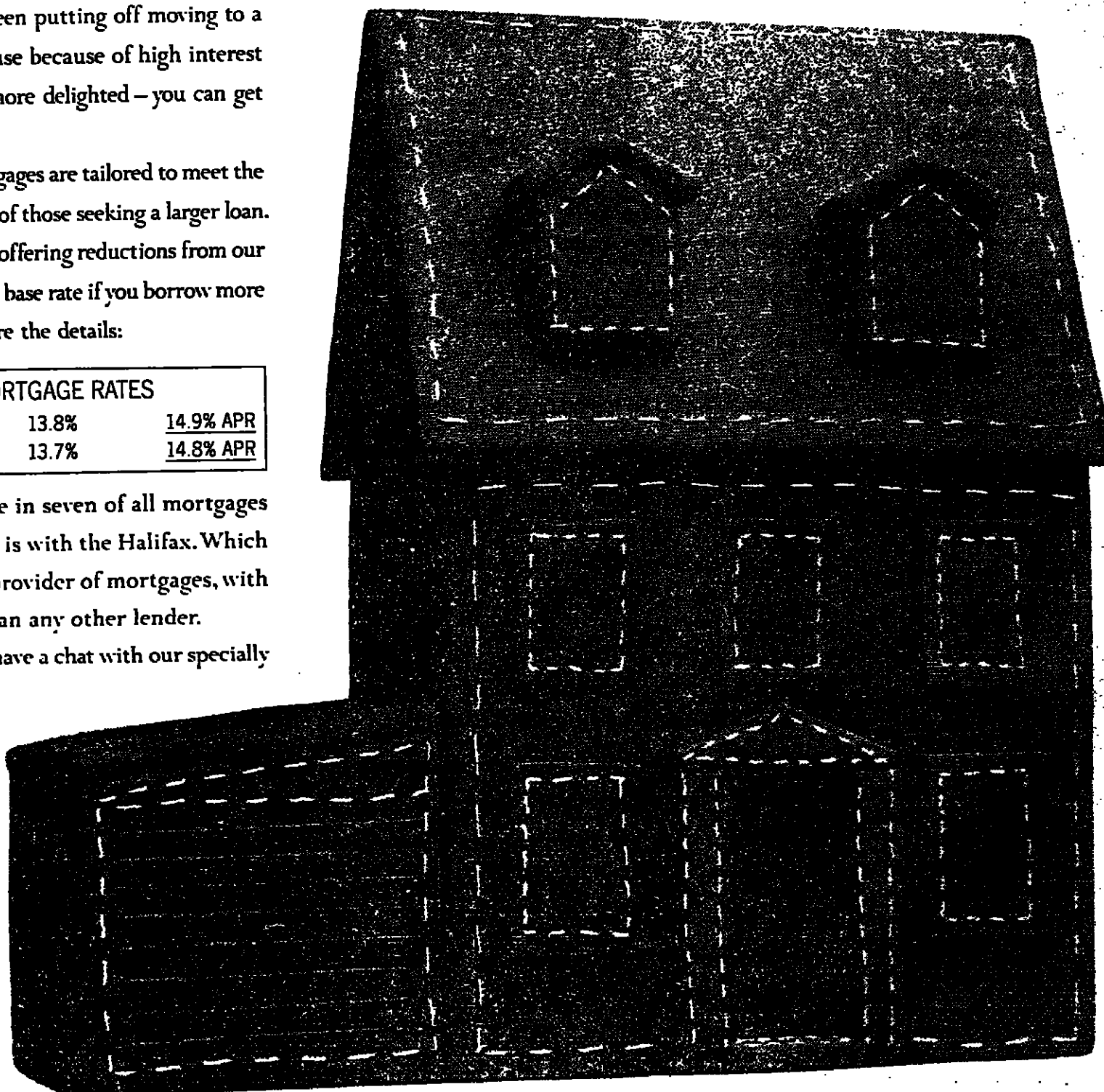
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مكتبة النور

Teachers' leaders take on left in battle over pay tactics

MANY parents who accept that classroom salaries are too low will find their loyalties torn again this weekend when they see teachers calling for strike action and work-to-rules that can only damage their children.

The threat of classroom disruption will resurface when the National Union of Teachers holds a special conference in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, on Saturday to formulate its pay claim for 1991-92. After seeking the views of its 190,000 members, the moderate executive is suggesting that all classroom teachers should receive a 10 per cent rise plus £1,500 from April 1991 with further rises in the following year which would increase salaries to between £12,502 and £23,000.

The basic rates for classroom teachers from January will be £9,000 to £16,000, although various extra payments are available.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, has told the Interim Advisory Committee on Teachers' Pay, that salaries for 1991-92 should be set in the middle 50 per cent of white-collar pay settlements in the 12 months to the end of this month, a figure likely to be about 9 or 10 per cent.

The committee, chaired by Lord Chilver, has also been asked to find a way to allow schools and local authorities to set pay scales to solve local problems of teacher shortages and to reward the best teachers.

The unions, particularly the NUT, are reluctant to see too

As the biggest teaching union debates pay, its leaders believe it must avoid strike action to retain hard-won public support, reports David Tytler

much flexibility and want substantial overall increases. The loudest claims at Scarborough will come from the hard left which will continue to argue — though unsuccessfully — for a large flat-rate increase.

Doug McAvo, general secretary of the NUT, makes no secret of his belief that his militant minority, which is on show every year at the union's annual conference, damages both the union and the image of teachers generally. It is particularly harmful, he believes, at a time when public opinion largely backs the committed teacher.

Mr McAvo, said: "There is now a greater awareness among parents and the public generally of the need to pay teachers more. Part of the battle has moved our way but we are bound to put parents off if the balance of debate in Scarborough moves towards strikes rather than reinforcing the persuasive arguments we have already used so

effectively." In an attempt to diminish the left-wing influence, Mr McAvo persuaded the union executive to take pay out of the union's annual Easter conference and to debate it now after consultation.

While opposing strike action, the executive is likely to accept amendments which ask for certain sanctions to be put into the union's armory: that teachers should work no more than their contracted 1,265 hours a year, and that they should refuse to take part in the compulsory testing of seven year olds next May without a satisfactory pay offer. The executive, though, will be relying on the fact that no action can be taken until after a full membership ballot. Mr McAvo is betting on a majority rejecting such moves.

All the other main unions have made their claims to the advisory committee, which will set teachers' pay for the last time before negotiating rights, taken away by Kenneth Baker three years ago to end the teachers' strikes, are restored for 1992-93. The committee will submit its report early in the new year so that Mr MacGregor can make his announcement in March.

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, the country's second largest teachers' union, has already asked for a minimum increase of 15 per cent and a 35-hour week. A pay scale more directly linked to inflation and pay rises for comparable work is



Left out: union leaders hope to curb the influence of the left — evident at the NUT's April conference — in order to retain public support

favoured by the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, which it says would produce a classroom scale for good graduates starting on £11,800 going to a maximum of £19,600 with comparable increases in allowances for special responsibilities.

The 130,000-strong National Association of Headteachers has proposed a 13.6 per cent rise for

all heads and deputies with further increases to be negotiated with local education authorities and governors.

From January next year heads of small primary schools will receive £19,200 to £21,400 which the headteachers' association wants to raise to between £21,470 and £27,264. It would like the salaries of heads of the largest

secondary schools to rise from £37,902 to £52,833.

The Secondary Heads Association, which represents 6,000 heads and deputies, has asked for a minimum 15 per cent for all teachers and another 4 per cent to be distributed by governors among deputies, heads, and some senior staff.

All the unions believe that the

public accepts that teachers' pay must be increased sufficiently to keep properly-qualified staff. Mr McAvo is concerned that scenes at Scarborough on Saturday could jeopardise that support. "We must continue to keep parents and the public on our side by argument. There is no doubt we would lose their support if we resort to disrupting schools."

Karpov error with pawn leads to a swift draw

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE ninth game of the World chess championship in New York ended abruptly early yesterday in a draw when the challenger Anatoly Karpov allowed a key pawn to be captured on the 32nd move.

Karpov had been pressing for a win with the traditionally advantageous white pieces but on the 32nd move he placed a bishop on the d2 square,

which allowed black to snatch a key central pawn. By playing the superior 32 Bf4 Karpov could have kept his chances alive for some time. However, since Gary Kasparov's position was solid it is doubtful even in that case if a win could have been achieved.

Karpov scored a slight moral victory when Kasparov abandoned his favourite King's Indian Defence after the severe battering it had received in game seven. Instead, the world champion, playing with the black pieces, reverted to the Grünfeld Defence, which had been his staple diet during the two previous title defences in 1986 and 1987.

Doubtless exhausted by the marathon game eight, one of the longest ever played in the history of world championship chess, the two contestants opted for a line where queens were exchanged, which emphasised quiet strategic manoeuvring. Karpov enjoyed a slight advantage in that he had the pair of bishops and more mobile pawns. After his error on the 32nd move, however, the position immediately became one of rooks and opposite coloured bishops, where it was clear that neither side had any prospect of victory.

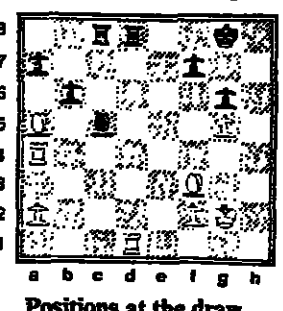
Latest scores: Kasparov: 4½; Karpov: 4½

● The headings for the moves in the eighth and ninth games were transposed. The first column should have been white and the second black.

Karpov white, Kasparov black

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	Nf6	16 h3	Bd2
2 c4	g6	17 Bx3	Nc5
3 Nc3	Qc5	18 Bx3	Rac8
4 Qxd5	Nxd5	19 Bg4	Rb8
5 e4	Nc3	20 Bg4	h5
6 Bxc3	Bg7	21 Bx3	Qe5
7 Bx3	c5	22 Rd1	Qxd5
8 Qd2	Qd5	23 Qd2	Bd5
9 Qxd4	Nc8	24 Qd2	h4
10 Rd1	Qd5	25 Qd2	Nb7
11 Qxd5	Nc5	26 Qd2	Nb5
12 Nf3	Qd5	27 Qd2	Rc8
13 Bx2	Bd7	28 Qd2	Bd6
14 Bx2	h4	29 Qd2	Bd5
15 Qd2	Rd8	30 Qd2	Rd8
16 Rcl	Bg4	31 Qd2	Rd8
17 d5	Nb7	32 Bx4	Rd8

Draw agreed



Positions at the draw

Our Price fined for cost clash

The Our Price record shop chain was fined almost £4,000 yesterday for selling albums at up to £5 more than the sale price in the window.

Records were marked "£4 off" in a "Mad About Music" sale but visitors to the branch at Torquay, Devon, were told that there were none left at that price and were offered stock at the full price. Torbay magistrates were told. The company admitted 12 specimen charges under the 1987 Consumer Protection Act. It was fined £300 on each and was told to pay £378 costs.

Paul Venn, a trading official who brought the prosecution, said that the case had implications for all stores that bought in goods for cut-price sales.

Reporting award

Thomson Prentice, medical correspondent of *The Times*, has won the "best individual reporting" award from the Population Institute, an American non-profit organisation based in Washington, for his coverage of global population issues. The awards are to be presented by President Mugabe of Zimbabwe in Harare on November 27.

Committal date

Three Metropolitan police officers charged with conspiring to pervert the course of justice after disturbances outside the offices of News International in Wapping, east London, in 1987, face a two-day committal hearing beginning on January 7.

Hose ban ends

Yorkshire Water yesterday lifted a ban imposed in early August on using hoses for watering gardens and washing cars. It had been feared that the ban would last until next year.

Shellfish climate pattern in doubt

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A TECHNIQUE for assessing the climate of Earth's oceans millions of years ago and predicting global warming can produce widely inaccurate results, scientists have found.

Since the 1960s some geologists have based estimates of ocean temperatures during the last 600 million years on the remains of brachiopods, small bivalves with calcium shells. Ancient temperature patterns determined from the shellfish influence some research on modern climate trends.

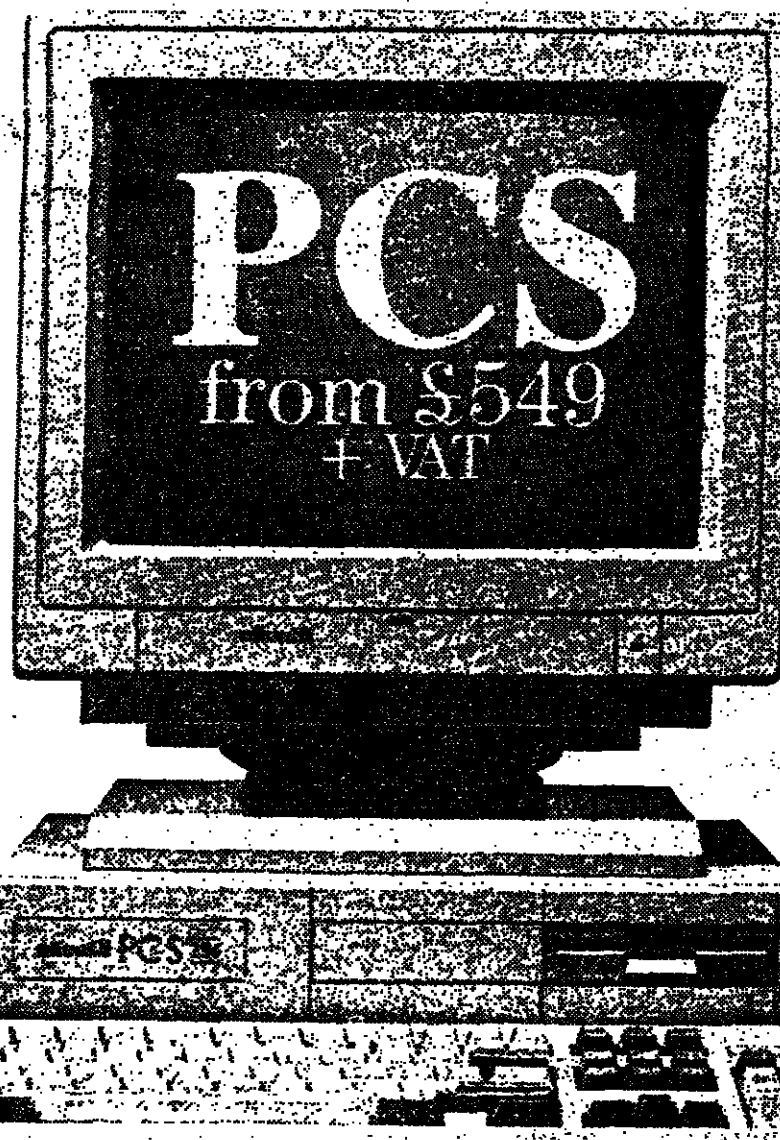
If temperature patterns have varied widely in the past

then global warming could be a natural rather than pollution-led event, runs the theory.

However, a team at Michigan university believes that the technique may have been overestimating ancient seawater temperatures by as much as 15C.

The research, based on an analysis of modern brachiopod shells, has found that the technique, which measured the absorption of oxygen isotopes in the shells, is unreliable. It had been thought this figure could give an accurate seawater temperature.

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Difficult balancing act for ministers as poll tax grant is set

Seven months after the first community charge bills started to go out in England and Wales, opinion polls still show little enthusiasm for the new tax. Wednesday's announcements about capping and government grants suggest that the government remains highly sensitive to the possible impact of local tax bills next year.

In the system with which ministers, councillors and campaigners against the tax are grappling, there is a wafer-thin margin between spending levels that lead to unpalatable charge bills and those that produce politically damaging cuts.

Such is the sensitivity of the system that if, overall, councils exceed the government's assumed spending figure by just 2 per cent, the community charge would have to rise by £20. That may not sound much, but it would be the difference between hitting the government's target of £380 an adult and edging the average charge next year above

the politically sensitive average of £400.

The announcement of total government cash support for each council in England this week was accompanied by a parallel announcement about capping next year. Overall, the increase in central support for local government will rise by just under £3 billion, as announced in July. The distribution of the money, however, will leave some authorities much better off in 1991-2 and others worse off. Capping will be used to ensure that authorities — particularly the high spenders — do not gleefully spend the additional central subvention.

Central support to local authorities comes in two main forms, grants and business rates. In addition, some authorities receive transitional assistance of various sorts. By comparing the total received from the government with what it will receive next year it is possible to gauge how far the council will be under pressure

The announcement about capping and government grants, Tony Travers writes, suggests that ministers remain highly sensitive on the issue

when it comes to set its community charge next year.

An analysis of the distribution of central support shows a relative shift of resources from the North of England to the South. The accompanying table shows, for each region, the change in support in percentage terms and as an amount per adult.

London and the South-East have done particularly well, partly because of the unwinding of the much hated "safety nets" and in part because of complex factors affecting the grant distribution mechanism. The North and Yorkshire have done badly because authorities there have lost "safety nets" and other support.

The results of this reallocation

of government funds should lead to relatively high charge increases in authorities in Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and elsewhere in the northeastern part of England, with the chance of lower increases or even falls in some parts of the South.

Of course, a surge in inflation could push up all authorities next year. On the assumption, however, that retail prices fall next year towards a rate of 6 or 7 per cent, the government is banking on the fact that the extra central support for authorities, coupled with the new capping powers, will produce an average charge not far from £400 without sharp drops in spending. By

announcing the limitation rules in advance, the government hopes that all councils will choose to spend below the level at which they will be capped. This method of proceeding is not universal capping as such, but it will have almost the same effect as a limit on every authority's spending.

The effect of the rules announced for capping next year will be to hold down the budgets of the highest spenders, while placing much less pressure on lower spending councils. If that impact is placed alongside the allocation of central funding considered above, it is clear that the government wants to see level or falling charge levels in many inner cities, especially in London, while being prepared to tolerate bigger rises in many parts of the North of England.

Because of changes in income from the centre, year-on-year variations in local tax will not relate directly with changes in individual authorities' spending

levels. Capping will almost certainly mean reductions in real spending for a fair number of higher spenders. The usual crop of city authorities are likely to have the greatest need to make such cuts and ministers are aware that dismissing teachers and road sweepers in moderate Labour or even Conservative authorities could be every bit as unpopular as big rises in the charge.

Chris Patten's package of support

Region	% (£ per adult)
London	15.2 (£131)
South East*	21.1 (£89)
East Anglia	12.4 (£54)
South West	8.7 (£38)
West Midlands	13.6 (£75)
East Midlands	8.4 (£42)
Yorkshire/Humber	5.3 (£23)
North West	11.7 (£72)
North	5.0 (£21)
England	12.6 (£71)

* Excluding London Source: CIPFA

port and capping for local government will take effect at a crucial time for the government. The next set of community charge bills and budgets will be presented to the public next March and April. Local elections in some shire and all metropolitan districts take place in May.

This year, there is little doubt that, with the exception of London, the Conservatives had a bad time of the local elections. Community charge must have played a part in cutting the Tory vote.

Next year's elections will be used by politicians in an attempt to assess the public mood. In 1983 and 1987, local elections were influential in determining the timing of the general election. They are likely to be so again next year. Much more than local tax bills hangs on the success or failure of Mr Patten's local government finance settlement.

The author is a research director at the LSE.

Election groups get to work

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher's preparations for the next Conservative manifesto are gathering pace with the first meetings of the policy groups formed to supply ideas for a fourth term in power.

Some have held their inaugural meetings. The others are expected to get down to their work once Parliament returns for the new session on Wednesday.

The prime minister announced the formation of the groups in July. They are broadly structured on departmental lines with cabinet ministers in the chair and with the membership made up of junior ministers, the chairmen of the Tory backbench committees and experts from outside.

Departments with wide areas of responsibility are understood to have spawned more than one group. Some cross-fertilisation is being attempted, with ministers from one department sitting alongside their colleagues from another. The groups are believed to comprise 10 to 20 members.

The groups are operating to a working deadline of early in the new year and most are expected to complete their work by the end of January.

The groups' reports will be studied by a manifesto committee of senior ministers led by Mrs Thatcher.

With Labour enjoying an opinion poll lead well into double figures, however, few Tory MPs expect a general election before next autumn.

Democrats toughen demand for poll reform

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats toughened their stance on electoral reform yesterday, pledging that they would refuse to co-operate in a hung parliament with any party that did not offer electoral reform.

After an all-day meeting of the Liberal Democrat MPs, Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, said: "Electoral and constitutional reform is not a programme or a manifesto point: it is the pre-condition without which no programme for the reconstruction of Britain after Mrs Thatcher can be successful".

That marks an important strengthening of the conditions for any participation in a coalition government by the Liberal Democrats: they would no longer be content with the offer by another party of a referendum on the subject or any other half-way house.

In response to questions, Mr Ashdown said that his MPs, if in a position to do so, would use their votes to bring down any minority government that refused to offer electoral and democratic reform.

He criticised Neil Kinnock, Labour's leader, for being dragged along by his party members on the issue of proportional representation and accused him of trying to sweep the subject under the carpet.

The Liberal Democrat MPs backed a statement from Mr Ashdown in which he said that

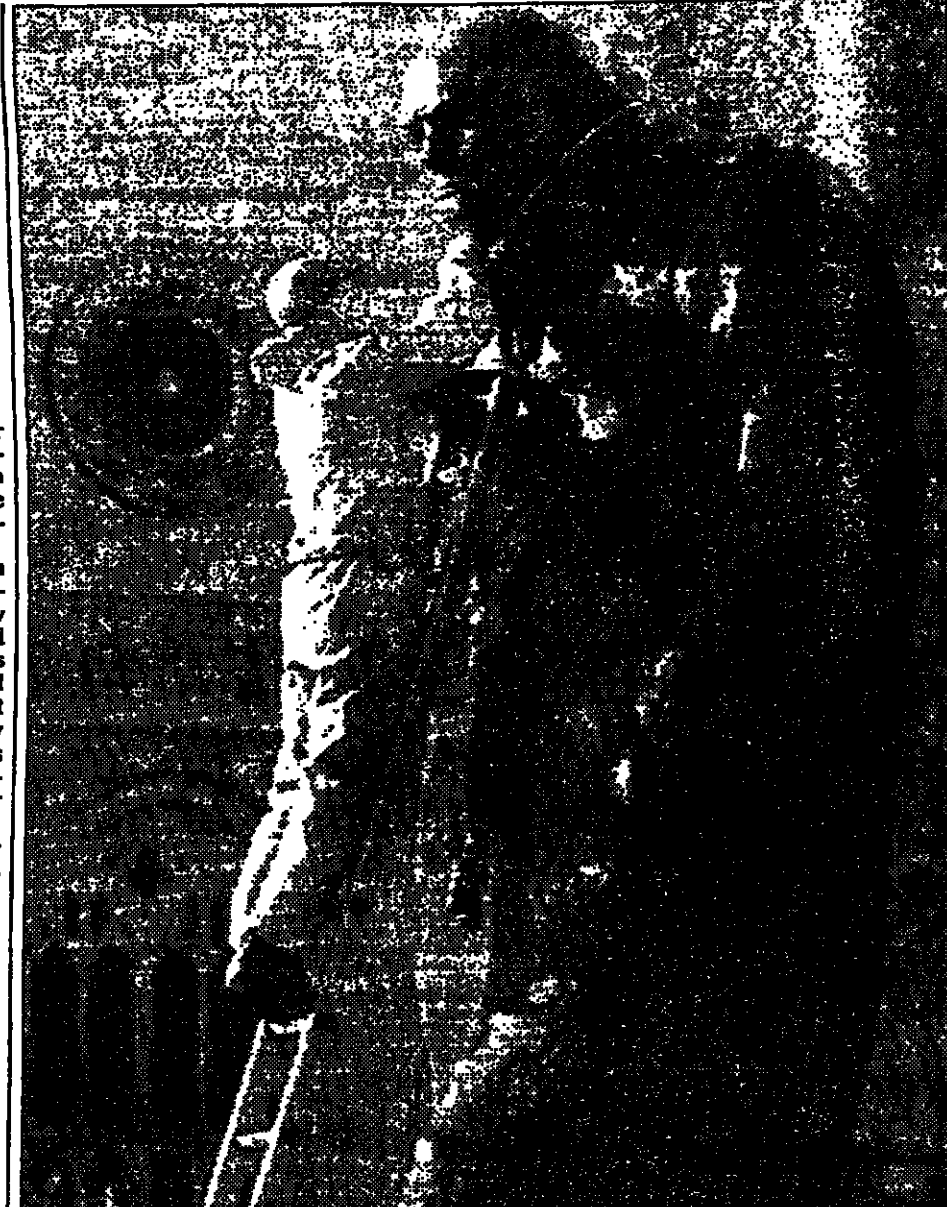
any successful post-Thatcher government "must be committed to full participation in the new Europe that will be created at the inter-governmental conferences."

"It must ensure that Britain has the skills and the education system for the new century. It must be prepared to tackle the difficult decisions that we must take to safeguard our environment. And it must create an enterprise economy in which the consumer comes first, competition is strengthened and inflation is under control."

"We also confirmed our view that the essential pre-condition for these, the essential ingredients of a successful post-Thatcher government, is the electoral and democratic reform that can make them happen."

Mr Ashdown confirmed in response to questions that his party would wish to see the inter-governmental conferences to be set up in Rome in December agree on progress to a single European currency and an independent central bank in the EC. Acceptance of the decisions reached by the conferences would be an essential test in terms of the possibility of working with other parties.

The Liberal Democrat leader said: "We are not afraid of, but do not seek, a partnership government". The party's aim remained that of winning government in its own right.



Wash and brush up: With the end of the parliamentary session yesterday, the statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Parliament Square is given a cleaning

Bills go through despite revolts

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

MPs LEFT Westminster yesterday at the close of Margaret Thatcher's third year of her third administration having passed into law 34 government measures.

Rows, revolts and many late nights disturbed the smooth passage of the heavy legislative session. The chief difficulties for the government's business managers came from disputes about community care, dogs, abortion, the fate of Hong Kong citizens and a ragbag Scottish bill. By comparison, they had unexpectedly little trouble in steering through health service reforms, the regulation of human embryo research, law reforms and student loans.

The Queen's speech on Wednesday will unveil a lighter, less politically controversial, programme to give the prime minister the option of calling a general election next year.

The main government acts to become law during the session were:

NHS and community care: to allow hospitals to opt out of health authority control and to become self-governing trusts and to introduce a more competitive climate into the health service. Revolutions on the community care proposals led Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, to delay his plans.

War crimes: the Lords killed the bill allowing the trial of alleged Nazi war criminals now living in Britain. The government is to reintroduce it next session and use the Parliament acts if necessary to force it through. Ministers are holding talks with legal peers on their objections to the changes in the law.

Hong Kong: an act granting entry rights to up to 50,000 heads of household in the colony. A rebellion by Tory MPs, led by Norman Tebbit, collapsed after second reading of the bill.

Broadcasting: despite disputes about the future of "quality" television, the measure opening the way for an expansion of television and radio stations went through largely unamended. The exception was a late government amendment against biased broadcasters. David Mellor, the arts minister, was forced to

re-draft the amendment after a Lords revolt.

Courts: under attack from barristers, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, was forced to water down his proposals for breaking down restrictive legal practices before introducing the bill. It had an easier-than-expected passage.

Student loans: low-interest loans for university students have been introduced, with the government surviving revolts on the withdrawal of benefits from students.

Environment: the main political parties supported most of the "green" bill to control pollution and to combat litter, although the break-up of the Nature Conservancy Council into national bodies met protests. The most difficult revolts for the government were on four Tory amendments to introduce a national dog register.

Embryology: the Lords vote in favour of research on human embryos up to 14 days old under strict conditions defused most of the dispute on experimentation. The Commons stages were dominated by the government's decision to allow amendments to the abortion law to be added. The act will cut the time limit for terminations from 28 weeks to 24.

Food safety: a largely non-controversial measure to improve standards of food handling and processing.

Employment: the fifth piece of industrial relations legislation. The act bans the closed shop.

Other measures include: improvements to security at airports and ports; a paving bill to reorganise the finances of British Coal; improved protection for public house tenants; changes in the drinking and penal law in Scotland; the privatisation of the management of the Whitehall estate; and giving the vote to residents on Caldey Island and making them liable for poll tax.

Few bills introduced by individual MPs and peers were enacted. Two exceptions were the bill to criminalise computer hackers and a requirement for horse riders under 14 to wear safety hats.

Labour front bench job for Rooker

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock intensified Labour's attack on the government over the health service yesterday by appointing one of his senior backbenchers, Jeffrey Rooker, as his spokesman on community care.

Mr Kinnock has brought Mr Rooker back to the front bench in an expanded health and community care department headed by Robin Cook. Mr Rooker, a former local government spokesman and unsuccessful candidate for the job of chief whip, is one of Labour's leading campaigners for proportional representation. It was denied last night that his appointment was an attempt to gag him on that issue.

Mr Rooker will also speak on personal social services. His appointment, announced by Mr Kinnock yesterday in a limited reorganisation of front bench jobs, means a return to the backbenches for Tom Clarke. Others leaving the front-bench are Paul Flynn, who asked to stand down as a social security spokesman, and Richard Cribb, an industry spokesman, who is to concentrate on campaigning in the country on regional policy.

Other newcomers appointed to the front bench are Tony Banks, MP for Newham North West, who will serve under Michael Meacher as a

social security spokesman and have special responsibility for the European social charter, and Win Griffiths, MP for Bridgend, who will speak on environmental protection. John Reid, MP for Motherwell North, moves to the post of defence spokesman, and Joan Walley to transport.

Socialist gathering

A FORUM that brings together members of most political parties on the left is hoping to attract up to 2,000 participants to its fourth annual conference in Manchester this month.

The Socialist Movement, born in Tony Benn's Chesterfield constituency four years ago, has now become a full-blown organisation, providing what some of its members see as a way to reintroduce the Labour party to socialism.

Mr Benn said yesterday that he saw the movement as a network rather than as a political party. "It is not a political party, not a new socialist international, in the old sense... and I have a simple objective, that every party in Britain should be socialist."

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War crimes: the Lords killed the bill allowing the trial of alleged Nazi war criminals now living in Britain. The government is to reintroduce it next session and use the Parliament acts if necessary to force it through. Ministers are holding talks with legal peers on their objections to the changes in the law.

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£5,000 - 200,000	14.13%	10.6%	10.3%

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Balances	Annual Interest Gross	6 Monthly Income Net*	Monthly Income Net*
£25,000 - 200,000	13.73%	10.3%	9.8%
£10,000 - 24,999	13.33%	10.0%	9.5%
£5,000 - 9,999	12.00%	9.0%	8.1%
£500 - 4,999	12.4%	9.3%	8.8%

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Balances	Annual Interest Gross	6 Monthly Income Net*	Monthly Income Net*
£25,000 - 200,000	13.73%	10.3%	9.8%
£10,000 - 24,999	13.33%	10.0%	9.5%
£5,000 - 9,999	12.00%	9.0%	8.1%
£500 - 4,999	12.4%	9.3%	8.8%

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David and Andrew.
During their holidays they
went to see the Bluebell
Railway. "Mum told us
not to get dirty, so it was
really funny when she
slipped in some oil."

Communal clashes put pressure on Singh to go

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SECURITY forces battled to control Hindu-Muslim clashes across the north of India yesterday as the government struggled to deal with the chaotic political aftermath of the assault by Hindu extremists on the ancient mosque at Ayodhya.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the prime minister, is under intense pressure to resign. If he refuses, the governing Janata Dal (People's Party) looks certain to split. Devi Lal, the former deputy prime minister who was sacked by Mr Singh for disloyalty, is a leading candidate to take over.

Rajiv Gandhi, leader of Congress (I) and a former prime minister, is anxious to avoid forcing an early general election. His party is willing to support the present government provided that Mr Singh is replaced, arguing that India

cannot risk a poll while it is torn by widespread caste and communal violence. Congress (I) opposes the creation of a national government, but says it is ready to offer constructive support from without.

The party is clearly playing for more time to consolidate its position after its rout in northern India in the last general election less than a year ago. The longer it waits the more assured will be its victory as the issues of prices, Punjab, Kashmir, caste and communal hatred batter the present embattled government.

Mr Singh will not be easily removed if he refuses to go, since a two-thirds majority in the parliament is needed to topple a leader. The president of the National Front, the five-party body that heads the coalition government, meets today to consider the leadership issue.

The National Front parliamentary party meets on Sunday to discuss the leadership question. Next day the Janata Dal parliamentary party meets. Finally - and this is the acid test - parliament votes next Wednesday on a one-line confidence motion tabled by Mr Singh. He has told President Venkateswaran that he believes he can still command a majority.

The prime minister has been banking on being saved by defections by low-caste and Muslim MPs from Congress (I) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a former ally which has withdrawn support from Mr Singh. But there is no serious question that he will lose. Only if a new leader is in place by the time the vote is taken could the outcome be different; if that happened the extremist BJP might even return to the fold with its decisive block of 86 MPs.

The BJP's present preference, however, is to test its strength at the polls while it is riding a triumphant wave in the wake of the symbolic damage inflicted on the mosque at Ayodhya on Tuesday when Hindus attempted to start building a temple on the same site. But the party knows it has no chance of capturing enough seats to form a government.

There are no obvious successors to Mr Singh if he does resign or, which is unlikely, if dissidents muster enough votes to dismiss him. The serious consideration being given to Mr Lal is one of the more bizarre political developments of recent times. He was the chief minister of the small northern state of Haryana, which he ran like a personal fiefdom. He has spent the past few days basking in the sun at his official Delhi residence, seemingly unperturbed by the political chaos around him.

Another contender is Chandrababu Naidu, a long-standing Janata Party member and former member of Congress (I). He has come out firmly against Mr Singh's continuation in the leadership, in effect threatening to split the party unless the prime minister quits.

Violence continued across four states yesterday with Uttar Pradesh bearing the brunt. Hindu-Muslim trouble also flared in Gujarat, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

Troops strike at Tamil rebels

FROM VUTHA YAPA IN COLOMBO

TWO battalions of the Sri Lankan Army landed on the island of Mannar yesterday among reports that more than 45,000 Muslims have fled the area under threat from Tamil rebels.

The minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne, said that troops had already started operations to liberate the Mannar area from the rebels.

The Muslims are Sri Lanka's third largest community after the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Their mother tongue is Tamil, but they have associated more closely with the Sinhalese. The rebels have accused them of collaborating with the army in the Eastern province and massacred over 200 Muslims at Enayur and Kankandy in two separate incidents in August.

Mr Wijeratne said that the troops had been unable to move earlier, as they had to avoid a situation of Muslim civilians being killed. He alleged that the Tamils had loaded more than 2,000 Muslims living in the northern Jaffna peninsula into buses and sent them to Vavuniya, about 90 miles south of Jaffna.

Meanwhile in the Eastern province, 11 civilians, seven soldiers and two rebels were killed in two separate incidents. At Vellova in Eastern Trincomalee district, rebels attacked the village and killed 11 civilians and seven soldiers. At Aluth Oya, they shot three civilians, two of them women.

The government announced that the constitution will be amended to enhance fundamental rights, including freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and punishment, inherent right to life, freedom of information including publication.

Cancer diagnosis 'can stay secret'

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE high court has ruled that doctors are not obliged to tell patients they are suffering from cancer, rejecting a claim by a victim's family that she might be alive today had she been informed of her disease.

The ruling will ensure that cancer remains taboo in Japan, where doctors feel awkward breaking the news to patients, even though it has become the country's single biggest killer.

Court officials said yesterday that the high court in the central city of Nagoya ruled on Wednesday that relatives of Kazuko Makino, a former nurse who died of cancer in 1983, aged 50, had no case against the Japanese Red Cross Society.

Four of Mrs Makino's relatives sued the society on the ground that they were unable to save her life because doctors had not told the patient or the family she was suffering from cancer.

The family said in their suit that doctors found Mrs Makino had cancer of the gall bladder but told her she had gallstones. Mrs Makino, believing that she was not seriously ill, stopped visiting the hospital.

Doctors show that eight out of 10 doctors in Japan lie to

cancer patients. They give a diagnosis of a stomach ulcer, a vaginal cyst, or gallstones to avoid telling the truth. One survey found that 30 per cent of doctors would not tell a patient about cancer even if it were curable.

But doctors are not alone in this conspiracy of silence. Most Japanese patients, unaware that many cancers can be treated if caught early, prefer not to know. Partly because of ignorance, partly because of superstition, cancer carries a great stigma in Japan. Parents try to avoid their children marrying into a family in which someone has had cancer.

The ignorance and the phobia continue, even though cancer remains Japan's leading cause of death. Nearly 27 per cent of all deaths in Japan last year were attributed to cancer. One of those was Emperor Hirohito, who was kept in the dark about his pancreatic cancer throughout his long illness.

The presiding judge of the Nagoya high court, Judge Shigeo Ito, said that the dead woman and her doctor did not share "a relationship of mutual trust" that would have enabled him to disclose the true nature of her condition to her or members of her family.



Riot victims: A family sits amid the ruins yesterday after their home in the Bangladesh port city of Chittagong was destroyed in rioting by Muslim extremists who attacked Hindu temples and other property. Tension grew in Dhaka and throughout the country yesterday as troops and armed police patrolled the streets after a day of communal violence (Ahmed Fazl writes). The authorities imposed an

indefinite curfew in Dhaka after a night curfew in selected parts failed to quell violence. Militant Muslims attacked Hindu places of worship in the old part of the city defying the night curfew. Shops were broken into or set on fire. The 300-year-old Dhakeshwari temple was damaged and another was vandalised. One person was killed and over 60 injured overnight as police fired on a crowd to

prevent looting. More than 100 were arrested. The state-run radio said a curfew had been imposed throughout Dhaka and its suburbs from 4 pm local time. Police with loudspeakers ordered residents to stay indoors. The curfew prevented a planned peace march by opposition political parties, students, teachers and artists in the afternoon. Muslim violence against the minority Hindu community

flared up after a fictitious report in a fundamentalist daily that a mosque at Ayodhya in India which is at the centre of a Hindu-Muslim dispute had been demolished by extremist Hindus. The newspaper *Inquilab* called for an Islamic jihad or holy war against "the enemies of Islam". President Ershad banned the paper but it was allowed to resume publication after publishing an apology.

Muldoon challenge to new cabinet

FROM RICHARD LONG IN WELLINGTON

THE unity of New Zealand's new National Party government was challenged yesterday just minutes after the prime minister-elect, Jim Bolger, announced his new cabinet.

Sir Robert Muldoon, the former prime minister, petulant after being excluded from the cabinet, turned down the position of minister of state, outside cabinet, saying he wanted to be free to criticise the government. Sir Robert, aged 69, who was prime minister from 1975 to 1984, said he wanted the freedom to criticise the government's actions and to "keep the cabinet honest".

"I have been around a long time, and I believe I had something to offer a cabinet," he said.

Winston Peters, a Maori and the party's most popular MP, who criticised its hardline economic policy and Mr Bolger's leadership during the election campaign, also signalled that he would continue to speak out even though he had been included in the cabinet. Mr Bolger bowed to party and Maori pressure to include Mr Peters.

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The warning was seen in diplomatic circles as certain to heighten the conviction of the inevitability of war now gripping the Middle East. It was delivered in his role as regent in the absence of King Hussain, who is travelling in the Gulf on yet another leg of his drive to secure a peaceful solution.

According to Prince Hassan, the only chance of avoiding bloodshed on a terrifying scale was to fuse the separate Arab and international attempts to negotiate peace. He disclosed that King Hussein, who will visit France and other European countries next week, was

In a reference to recent remarks by Mrs Thatcher, he added: "When we listen to statements of censure and sanctions continuing after an Iraqi withdrawal, the natural reaction is to surmise that there is a primary and secondary objective."

"The confrontation on the ground is going to be very much between Arab and Muslim forces because the foreign forces are more remote on their ships and air bases," the prince said.

"The political moonscape which emerges from this war — which appears to be inevitable — is one that cannot be controlled and monitored by a continuing presence of our forces. If you look at it from the Arab side, from our side

Prince Hassan spoke angrily of the criticism heaped on Jordan, arguing that it had supported all the international moves against Iraq, including sanctions, with the exception of approving the speed and method of the implementation of Operation Desert Shield. "The military option was put in place so swiftly and dramatically that it made it very difficult to talk about

The prince appeared less depressed than King Husain, who has resumed chain-smoking. "I am in a sort of limbo," he said, brushing aside the scorn heaped on Jordan for a role which he insisted is that of would-be peace broker.

By MICHAEL KATTE, DELOITTE'S CORRESPONDENT, AND JIM MITCHELL, DOWNEY

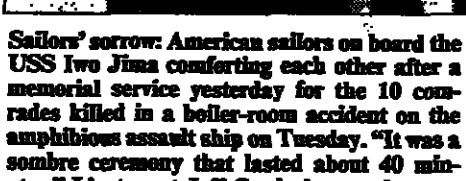
"Such moves for political unity and consultation," said a Whitehall source, who added that the first the Foreign Office knew of the German and Italian actions was from British sources at the United Nations on Wednesday.

The Foreign Office issued a statement drawing attention to the two governments' failure to honour the Rome agreement, noting that they had proposed to Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, that Herr Brandt visit Baghdad under UN auspices to plead for the

After clearing the idea with Signor Andreotti, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, was deputized by Herr Kohl to ring Señor Pérez de Cuellar to put it forward. He made it clear that it should only be implemented as a UN mission, in keeping with security council resolutions calling on the secretary-general to go to Baghdad to seek the release of hostages. Apparently the chancellor then telephoned Herr Brandt in New York and asked him to offer his services. Señor Pérez

Herr Kohl was left with no alternative but to give his reluctant approval, his spokesman said. The government stands by the advice against individual action but "it holds the mission of leading European personalities acting on its own responsibility to be the most suitable way in the current situation to put the case by international society to the Iraqi leadership for the release of hostages".

It seems that the chancellor's change of heart had more than a little to do with the fact that, with a general election only a month away, the visit had become em-



for Command Naval Forces at Central Command, said after returning to Manama from the ship (AP reports from Bahrain). Six of the victims were killed instantly when steam burst out of a ruptured pipe. Four died of severe burns after they were ferried to USS Comfort,

FROM JUAN CARLOS GARCIA IN RETIRE

However, Syria's apparent support now for an Arab solution to the Gulf confrontation, strongly advocated by Mr Arafat, is already regarded as a spectacular move in the region's power game.

As usual in the Middle East, the repercussions of a political shift in the region are likely to be felt first in Lebanon. The

President Assad is certainly not a popular figure among the Palestinians of southern Lebanon. Many of them are survivors of the implacable campaign of 1983 when Mr Arafat's forces were expelled by Syrian guns from northern Lebanon.

But, as so often in the rocky history of Syrian-Palestinian relations, the opportunity for a pragmatic rapprochement seems again at hand, thanks in part to the Gulf confrontation and Mr Hawiri's intention to reorganise his country under the aegis of the Arab League.

De Morgan's Law

A PRE-emptive strike by the international allies will resolve the Gulf confrontation, a senior Egyptian minister said in London yesterday, and he predicted it would occur

systems linking up with the Gulf commanders. Like a submarine on patrol, the environment is colourless and quiet. The odd poster of President Saddam Hussein appears on the walls.

By MICHAEL KNIPE
DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Sulhan, referring to Iraq's chemical and biological arsenals, its nuclear potential, the invasion and human rights abuses, said: "There is no way except by a pre-emptive strike to eliminate that kind of situation, and it might happen shortly."

Down the corridor from the BMG is the "intelligence citadel", an area barred to most of the staff in the bunker. To enter the bunker, a visitor has to walk down a steep slope to the first floor. The rectangular building is 80 yards long, 50 yards wide and 25 yards deep.

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US school-

AFTER three years of declining enrollment, the United States National Academy of Sciences has issued a school requiem that is the worst of the worst. The world's leading mathematicians, physicists and chemists, which have made the country a world leader in these fields, are being cut out of the curriculum.

Their place is being taken by such subjects as the history of science, the life of Albert Einstein, and the life of Robert Oppenheimer, the atomic bomb father. The academy also has recommended that the life of the atom be taught after the life of the atom.

Since 1945, the academy has recommended that the life of the atom be taught after the life of the atom.

After the life of the atom, the academy has recommended that the life of the atom be taught after the life of the atom.

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Runcie urges restoration of links with Damascus

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DR ROBERT RUNCIE, the Archbishop of Canterbury, yesterday joined the families of hostages held in Beirut in urging the government to restore diplomatic relations with Syria.

His move followed signs that the lack of relations may be holding up the release of Terry Waite and John McCarthy, and possibly also Jack Mann. It coincided with the arrival in London of four Iranian diplomats to reopen their embassy after the renewal of diplomatic links with Tehran. David Reddaway, the

British chargé d'affaires in Tehran, is due to meet Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, next week. He will ask Tehran to use its influence with Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian group in Beirut believed to hold the hostages.

John Lytle, secretary for public affairs at Lambeth Palace, criticised the government's refusal to talk to Damascus as "a silly way to conduct foreign policy". He said the archbishop and the hostages' families agreed with this criticism. Lambeth Palace is understood to have written

to William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office, expressing "astonishment" that Britain had blocked the lifting of European Community sanctions against Syria.

The government wants evidence that Damascus has dropped its support for international terrorism, but Mr Lytle said: "In relations between states, as between people, if you expect people to grovel you make little progress. What matters is that the Syrians are not now involved in organising or sponsoring

terrorism". Philip Robins, head of the Middle East programme of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, noted that Britain had renewed links with Tehran without the death sentence against the author Salman Rushdie being dropped or Roger Cooper, the jailed British businessman, being released. It was therefore difficult to defend the continued rift with Damascus.

Syria had removed from office or blocked the promotion of people who could have been identified with the 1986 attempt to place a bomb on an El Al airliner at Heathrow, and expressed willingness to take action against any Syria-based group proved to have been involved in the Lockerbie disaster. He said Britain might have been expected to resume links with Syria before Iran's decision to renew links with Tehran but not Damascus showed a "special bitterness" which many traced to Downing Street.

A separate effort to persuade the government to change its view on Syria is being made by Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch and chairman of the British-Syrian Parliamentary Group. He said that Mr Waldegrave had argued that Britain would at least need a private assurance that the Syrian embassy in London would not be used for Middle East terrorism. "I feel this was an extraordinary comment," Mr Adley said.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said last week that there was still an obstacle related to the attempt to bomb the El Al airliner. But Mr Adley said he had never been satisfied that the Syrian government was involved.

Pledge by Sharif on Bhutto

Islamabad — Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister-designate of Pakistan, said yesterday that his government will not initiate any fresh charges against the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto (Zahid Hussain writes).

Mr Sharif, whose nomination was endorsed by more than 160 of 216 MPs, said his government would pursue a policy of tolerance and forgiveness. "But I cannot withdraw the charges on which she is already facing trial," he said. "It is now up to the court to decide. We don't control the courts."

The Pakistan People's Party of Miss Bhutto is meeting today in Islamabad to decide whether to sit in the assembly or to ask its members to resign from it in protest against alleged vote-rigging.

Air escape

Madrid — A Varig airliner bound from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro with 354 people on board plunged 30,000ft before the crew could bring it under control after a passenger sprayed the pilot with a paralysing aerosol, it was learned here yesterday. The near-disaster occurred over the Atlantic when a Brazilian transvestite being deported from Portugal walked into the cockpit behind a stewardess and squirted the spray into her face and then the captain's, temporarily stunning them both. Other crew members subdued the passenger as the co-pilot brought the plane under control.

Kabul strike

Kabul — Afghan troops attacked rebel bases outside the fortified Kabul airport this week and captured a large cache of rockets and ammunition. It was a large-scale military operation and a number of caves and enemy positions were captured. (AFP)



Home truths: the mother and sister of Omar Sirhan, a Palestinian teenager who murdered three Israelis last week, grieving at their house, demolished by soldiers.

Florida campaign tests a new style of politics

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

IN A BIG television studio a few miles north of Disneyworld, Bob Martinez, the governor of Florida, indulges in some make-believe of his own. It is midway through the only public debate he has agreed to in this year's gubernatorial contest.

A Republican, Mr Martinez tells the audience that public duty moved him to write to Lawton Chiles, his Democratic opponent, last week demanding to know why he met a dubious Miami businessman in 1987 while chairman of the Senate budget committee.

Mr Chiles, smiling with James Stewart charm, turns to Mr Martinez, the younger man, and says the letter was riddled with base innuendo. It was a perfect example of how negative campaigning works. "Throw enough mud and the other candidate has to spend his time trying to get it off of himself."

He then pulls from his pocket a list of contributors to Governor Martinez's 1986 campaign. There is the name of Charles Keating, America's crook-of-the-moment, in jail on charges of perpetrating serious fraud on customers of his failed savings and loan

institution. "When you throw those eggs, sometimes they blow up in your face," Mr Chiles gently advises his shaken opponent. It was a moment to savour for the man who, in one of the most important contests this year, has been running one of the most perverse and idiosyncratic campaigns.

Tapping into deep popular discontent with politics-as-usual, Mr Chiles has rejected the slick 30-second ads, the electronic image-making, the sophisticated demographic targeting, the spin doctors, the sound bites, the razzmatazz and all the other staples of modern American electioneering and is attempting to win with a grassroots campaign that makes a virtue of its minimalism. "Trust the people" is his war cry.

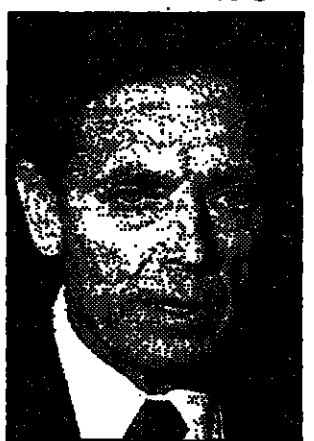
Mr Chiles first won his Senate seat in 1970 after walking the 1,013-mile length of Florida, earning the nickname "Walkin' Lawton".

He quit in 1988, burnt out and disillusioned, but last April, aged 60 and claiming new vision, he announced his political comeback. Declaring big money the root of all evil in US politics, he undertook to accept no donation of more

than \$100 (£51.50). When Ronald Reagan, the former president, flew in for a lavish \$1,500-a-head dinner for Mr Martinez recently, Mr Chiles held a \$1.50 "people's picnic" with hot dogs and Coke at a nearby fairground.

It may be a noble experiment, but Lawton Chiles's campaign has Washington's Democrats clutching the edge of their seats. No gubernatorial contest save California's is as important.

Peter Stothard, page 16



Martinez: told that "some eggs blow up in your face"

US school-leavers' exam gets bad marks

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

AFTER three years of wrangling amid the outcry over the decline of education in the United States, a team of scholars has produced a new national examination for school-leavers that fails to require them to write a single word of their own but allows them to use calculators for the mathematical questions for which they must provide their own answers.

"This is like rearranging the deck-chairs on the Titanic," Robert Schaeffer, a campaigner for improved standards, said on Wednesday after the College Board announced the first big overhaul since 1974 of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), now renamed the Scholastic Assessment Test, the nearest thing America has to a national educational yardstick.

Originally designed to provide a standard for assessing university applicants, the SAT has become a rite of passage for most high school pupils

outside some areas of the Midwest. For two decades 17-year-olds have had only to tick off multiple choice answers for every educational skill, from mathematics to comprehension and languages. Computers mark the results.

The tests have come under fire from every side in recent years for superficiality and an alleged bias against racial minorities and girls. Special coaching schools have flourished by teaching pupils the art of test-taking, including the technique of choosing answers by guesswork.

As the College Board worked on its reforms, the United States has been confronted with striking evidence of failure in its schools. In a mathematics and science comparison last year, American children scored last among students in all the other developed countries and several in the Third World.

Nearly a million children graduate from high school

every year unable to read at the level expected of 11-year-olds. Employers, warning of economic catastrophe if education does not improve by the next century, are spending heavily on remedial classes for secondary-school graduates. A telephone company in New York recently rejected several thousand applicants for a handful of low-level clerical jobs because none could summarise a simple paragraph.

In a typical quip, E.D. Hirsch, the author of the best-selling *Cultural Literacy*, recently observed: "The one thing adults can take comfort in is that your 15-to-17-year-old children know less than you do."

The SAT board set out to create a better gauge of analytical ability and one that would hammer home to schools the importance of reading and writing. They were expected, among other things, to introduce at least

one compulsory essay. But the pressures of lobby groups, politicians and more radical educators proved too strong. Most argued that black and Hispanic Americans and recent immigrants would be at a disadvantage.

The main reform is the introduction of an open-ended format for about 20 per cent of the mathematics questions. This means that pupils will have to calculate their own answers without the prompting given by multiple choice. They will be allowed to use calculators, a step that yesterday drew criticism from racial minority groups who claimed that poor children would be at a disadvantage.

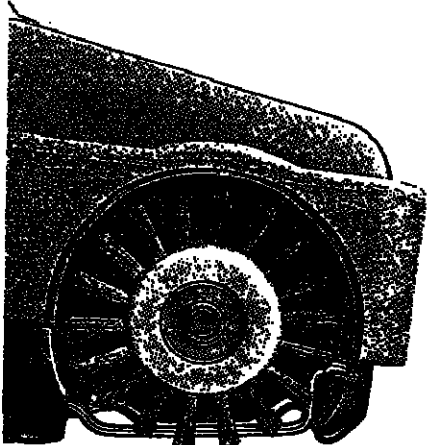
With the failure of the board to introduce any test of self-expression in the SAT, critics were quick to point out the irony of a sample essay question issued by the board this summer: "The more things change, the more they stay the same. Discuss".

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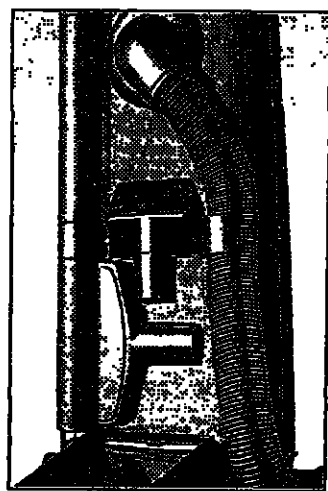
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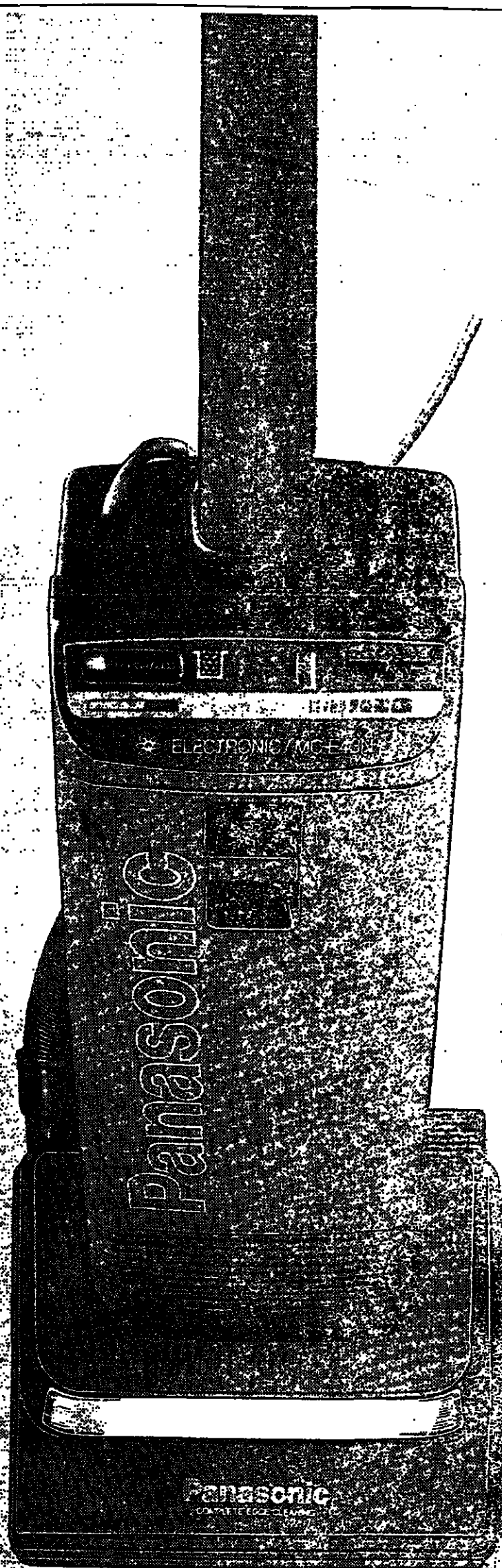
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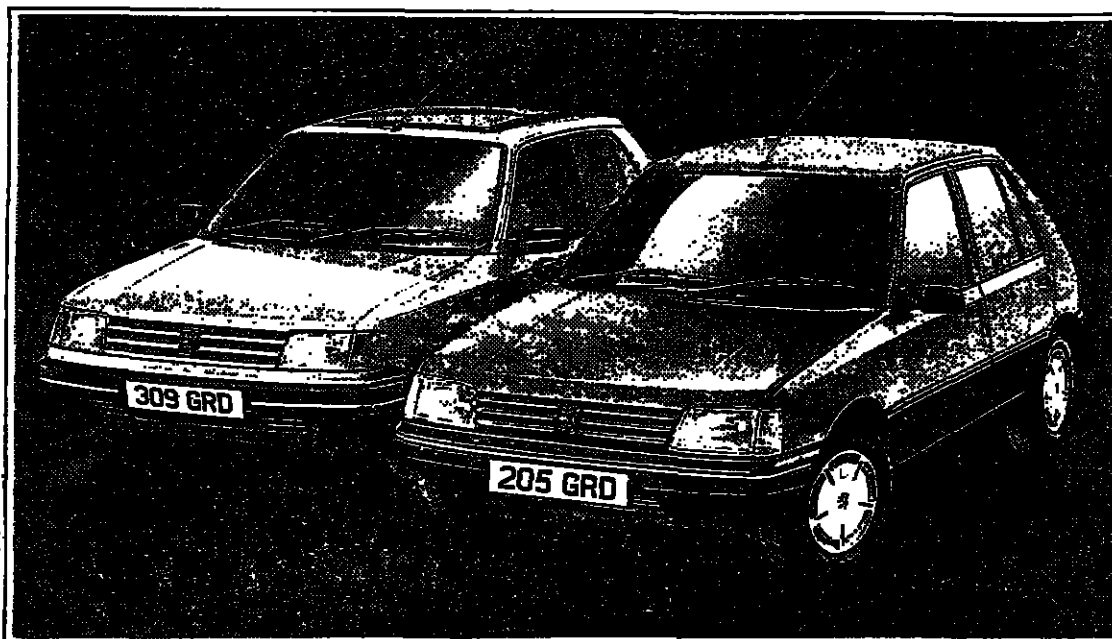
A major saving is, of course, at the pump. Petrol prices vary wildly, yet diesel remains consistently cheaper – currently by about 22p/gallon*. Also of course, with a diesel you get more miles per gallon than with equivalent petrol models. In an economy test, under RAC scrutiny, a 309 GRD travelled from Land's End to John O'Groats on less than 12 gallons of fuel – not even a tankful – averaging an incredible 79mpg! Economy continues right through the range – the 309's smaller stable mate, the 205 GRD can return up to 72.4mpg at a constant 56mph. Even under stringent Government tests it can do up to 52.3mpg in simulated urban traffic.

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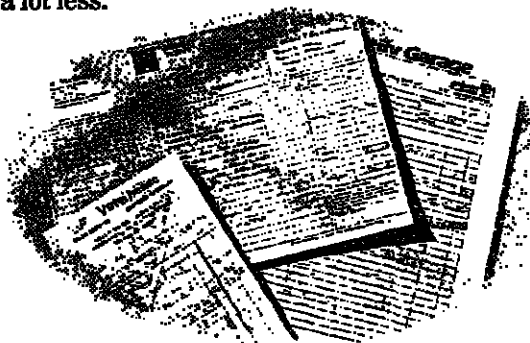
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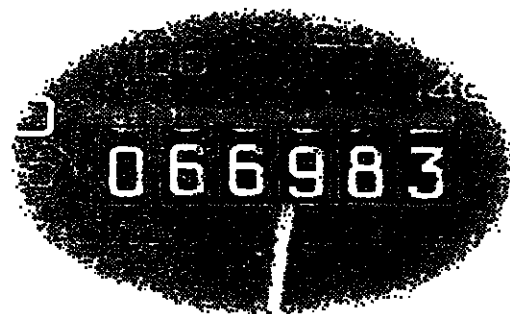
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Diesels are inherently more robust than petrol engines. They don't have complex electronic ignition systems, so there's less to go wrong. (As the AA will tell you, many of the faults they rectify are those of ignition). Over the life of the car the garage bills should be a lot less.



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that the lower revving diesel is said to exert a calming influence!). In normal use, a diesel car lasts longer. This means that second-hand prices hold up well; if you sell a car with, say, around 60,000 on the clock, you know there's a lot of life in it and can price it accordingly.

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*£1.17 a gallon of 4 star petrol. £1.83 a gallon of diesel. Source: Shell UK 30/10/90. D.O.T. official fuel economy figures for 205GRD: 72.4mpg at constant 56mph; 54.2mpg at constant 75mph; 52.3mpg simulated urban driving. †All prices correct at time of going to press and subject to availability. Metallic paint extra. Includes estimated on the road cost of 11 months Road Tax, Number Plates and Estimated Cost of Delivery but excludes the £200 Introductory Bonus. Cars illustrated 205GRD £9,455.00† and 309GRD £10,525.00†. **Peugeot Talbot Motor Co. Ltd. (Licensed Credit Brokers). For a written quotation contact Peugeot Talbot Credit, P.O. Box 300, Churchill Plaza, Churchill Way, Basingstoke RG21 1GJ. Offer subject to status (over 18s only). A guarantor may be required. ††Includes £15 Acceptance Fee payable with first instalment. †††Customer saving v. 23% APR with Peugeot Talbot Credit. Offer applicable for cars registered between September 18th and December 17th provided the bonus voucher is presented at purchase.

Ethnic unrest makes Moldavian independence a poisoned chalice

THE latest bout of ethnic unrest in Moldavia shows how national self-determination has become an open invitation to secession as much within the Soviet republics as within the Soviet Union itself.

Given the rich mosaic of peoples inhabiting Moldavia, its declaration of sovereignty, made in June, could well become a poisoned chalice, for it has provoked the minority Russian and Gagauz populations to demand their own autonomy and may well lead the significant Ukrainian element to call for union with the newly semi-independent Ukraine.

For the long suffering Moldavian majority, the emergence of a vociferous nationalism among the once dominant Russians and the once quiescent Gagauz is seen as part of a sinister Moscow plot to divide and rule in an area

which has been a shuttlecock of history. The Moldavian republic is an artificial creation of Stalin, carved from the body of the Romanian province of Bessarabia which changed hands between Russia and Romania four times until 1918 when it was awarded to Romania.

In 1940, at the same time as he annexed the Baltic republics, Stalin occupied Bessarabia and sought to stamp out the Romanian identity of its majority population by renaming them Moldavians, renaming the province Moldavia, and replacing the Roman alphabet with the Cyrillic one.

After the last war Russian was imposed as the official language and thousands of activists were brought from Russia and Ukraine to communise the republic, diluting in the process

Moldavia shows that self-determination by Soviet republics has opened a Pandora's box, writes Dennis Deletant, as minorities within their borders also seek the right to secede

the Romanian element in the population which was further weakened by mass deportations to Central Asia in the 1950s.

This policy of russification was accelerated, as in other Soviet republics, by enforced socio-economic changes, the most important of which were migration and urbanisation. Between 1960 and 1980 the number of Russians in Moldavia almost doubled to more than 500,000, whereas the Romanian population registered only a natural increase, rising to just over 2,500,000.

Russian predominance in

Moldavia was reinforced by the minorities' use of Russian as their second language, after their native one. Now that predominance is threatened by the adoption in September last year by the Moldavian parliament of a new language law making Romanian the official language and giving Russian a second-class status. Moldavians' assertion of their true identity has been further manifested in the adoption of the Romanian flag as the republic's flag and of the Romanian language name of Moldova.

The Russians fear that they will now be at a disadvantage in

the jobs market; the Moldavian parliament has decided for example that all state employees must pass a rigorous Romanian language test. Faced with the loss of their privileged position, the Russians, who form some 13 per cent of the republic's population, called in June for the establishment of their own "Dniester republic".

Their action was copied in August by representatives of the 150,000-strong Gagauz community, an ethnic group unique among the populations of Moldavia. Now Orthodox Christians, their origin is obscure.

One theory holds that they are descended from a Turkic tribe who settled in the area in the 11th century; others believe that they are turkified Bulgarians who retained their Orthodox religion.

Speaking a language related to Turkish, they were forced to use

the Cyrillic alphabet, and only a handful of works in their language has ever been published. It was not until 1987 that moves were taken to introduce teaching in Gagauz in schools in Moldavia and this official neglect of their culture prompted their parliamentary deputies' call for the setting up of a Gagauz autonomous republic and an appeal to President Gorbachev for support. The Moldavian parliament ruled the Gagauz call illegal and banned the Gagauz Khalky (Gagauz people) movement. Undaunted, the Gagauz deputies declared they would proceed with a declaration of independence. This has now sparked the combustible sentiments of the Moldavians.

A third potentially explosive minority problem involves the 600,000-strong Ukrainian population of Moldavia. Neigh-

bouring Ukraine's own recent affirmation of its national identity in a declaration of sovereignty can only embolden the Ukrainians of Moldavia to press demands for the safeguarding of their own distinct ethnic identity.

It is tempting to argue that such minority problems will act as a spur to those Moldavian leaders who wish to bury them in a union with the motherland, Romania; however, the Romanian government has its hands more than full with the country's Hungarian minority and for the moment would probably be relieved to be spared further international embarrassment as it seeks to live down the miners' debacle of June.

Dennis Deletant is Senior Lecturer in Romanian Studies, University of London.

Ukraine starts food rationing but fails to issue coupons

From Nick Worrall in Kiev

THE Ukrainian government introduced a tough new rationing system for food and consumer goods yesterday but in such haste that the majority of the 50 million people were unable to buy essentials because they had not yet received coupons.

The scheme has been introduced at a time of dire shortages and public political pressure on the republic's government which have led to an "explosive situation", according to one leading Ukrainian politician.

But many workers will have to wait nearly a week for their coupon sheets, which the government will issue in monthly wage packets. The bulk of state employees are not paid until November 7 while no provision at all has yet been made for non-state workers.

Kiev city council, fearing widespread chaos since the plan to introduce rationing in state shops and enterprises was revealed on Sunday, defied the republic's government by decreeing that bread and milk products should still be available without coupons for a time. Other Ukrainian cities are believed to be considering similar action. Although Ukraine is an important producer of Soviet food, supplies are still short at the best of times, and Sunday's announcement caused a rush to buy up remaining stocks. By Monday afternoon, shelves were virtually empty.

Despite years of promised reform under President Gorbachev, the centralised Soviet state sector still provides the vast bulk of food and goods at subsidised prices, though much appears on the black or alternative market at much higher prices.

In the covered markets, which are exempt from coupons, prices have risen steeply with the prospect that many Ukrainians would be forced to buy there during the chaotic introduction of the rationing system. "I'm only here for the money," said a Moldavian honey

seller at Kiev's big Bessarabian market in the city centre. Sergei Gronik admitted he had pushed up his price from 25 roubles per kilo (around £1.1 a lb at the official exchange rate) on Tuesday to 40 roubles yesterday. Customers, most of them women, were turning away in disgust at prices none could afford. Most Kiev workers earn about 200 to 220 roubles per month.

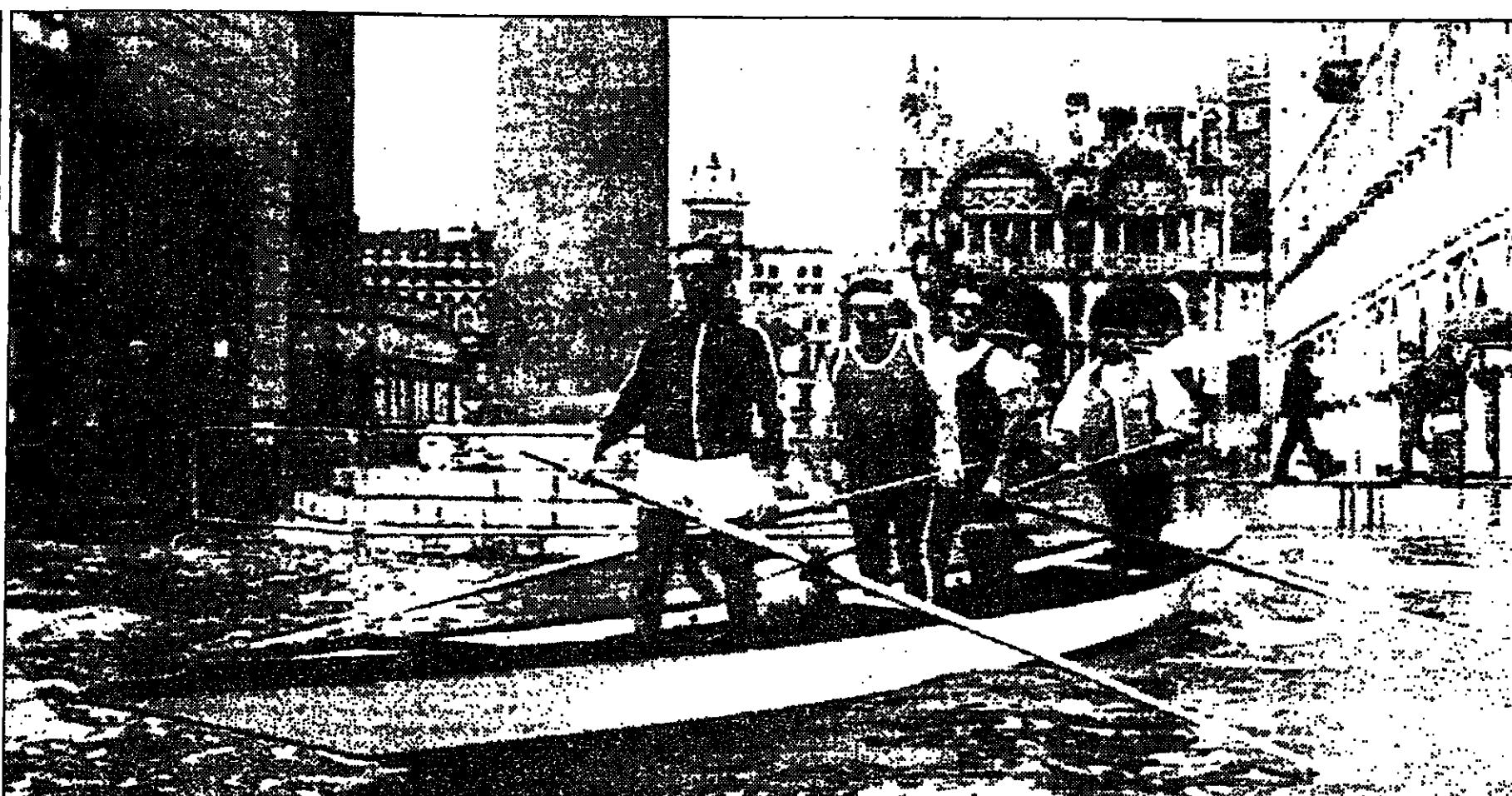
Meat was selling for up to 15 roubles per kilo nearby, five times the price in state shops for similar cuts. Apples were five roubles per kilo, carrots one rouble, a small cabbage cost two roubles and a kilo of poor-looking tomatoes were nearly three roubles.

Petrol is also being rationed. "It's a joke," said one driver. "You can't buy petrol anyway."

The Communist-dominated government has been in disarray since a two-week hunger strike by students demanding economic and political reform resulted in the sacking of the prime minister, Vitaly Masol, late last month. Plans to move towards an independent market economy have foundered on the recalcitrant Soviet state system and the powerful black market.

The rationing plan was first drawn up by Mr Masol. Surprisingly, it is being supported by a member of the democratic opposition, Volodymyr Filipchuk. He chairs the commission set up to investigate transition to a market economy.

Interviewed in the lobby of parliament yesterday, Mr Filipchuk said the scheme had been introduced because of the "explosive situation". He said: "Mafia payoffs are getting bigger and bigger and the atmosphere here is explosive. We have to try to guarantee to people at least the bare minimum during the transition to a market economy. Without coupons people are just forced to buy on the black market at ever-rising prices."



Damp course: gondoliers providing the only means of transport in St Mark's Square on the third day of flooding in Venice, when waters reached 44 inches above normal

First free-market prices hit Romania

From Reuters in Bucharest

TEN months after a popular revolt ended communist rule in Romania, the country yesterday faced its first free-market shocks as the government lifted price controls. November 1 was the date decided for prices to be set according to the law of supply and demand on everything except staple foods, electricity, heating, petrol and rents. Coinciding with the new pricing system, the currency, the leu, was devalued to 35 from 21 against the dollar.

The shift to a market economy is a clear, if painful, break with 45 years of central economic planning. Shop shelves in most areas were largely emptied by panic buying in advance of the change.

"There is no other solution, and it is better to do it sooner rather than later," Petre Roman, the prime minister, said on Romanian television on Wednesday night as he sought to dispel public fears

that liberalisation meant an uncontrolled rise in prices, which would be unbearable in a nation where living standards have declined steadily over the past decade.

Mr Roman said the measures were not aimed at the population but at loss-making industries, which had benefited from large subsidies for raw materials. These subsidies would have to go. "Romania's economy is heavily dependent on raw materials and especially energy imports. What we are going to subsidise from now on is no longer resources but finished goods," he said.

Mr Roman's National Salvation Front won a landslide victory in the general election in May and promised to lead Romania towards a market economy and turn it into a Western-style democracy. "This is a crucial moment for our society and the most radical

economic change since the December revolution," he said in his broadcast.

The parliamentary reaction was mixed. The opposition National Liberal Party generally backed the measures but had serious reservations about guarantees on social security. The government has announced wage indexation, with monthly compensations of 750 lei for those in work and 400 lei for pensioners as prices for non-essential foods, drinks, consumer goods and services are allowed to float.

Radu Campeanu, the Liberal party leader, said: "This is not a liberalisation but a readjustment of prices in keeping with economic realities. But people are not prepared and might take it badly against the background of our economic and social crisis."

Public reaction was mixed. The young seemed more willing to

accept the measures. "Financially speaking, the measure is difficult but welcome," Stelian Petrescu, aged 28, a geologist, said. But Dumitru Ispas, aged 46, a driver and father of three, said: "I will be compelled to go on stealing from the state to be able to make a living. I'm already contemplating going to work abroad, maybe in Africa."

After the ending of four decades of communist censorship last December, Romanian state television is next month to broadcast its first political satire, sponsored by the Liberals. In the show, called Zoo-Pol, animal puppets will portray government and opposition figures prominent since the uprising which toppled Ceausescu, a party spokesman said. A lynx wearing a miner's helmet, alluding to last year's rampage by miners in Budapest, will represent President Iliescu.

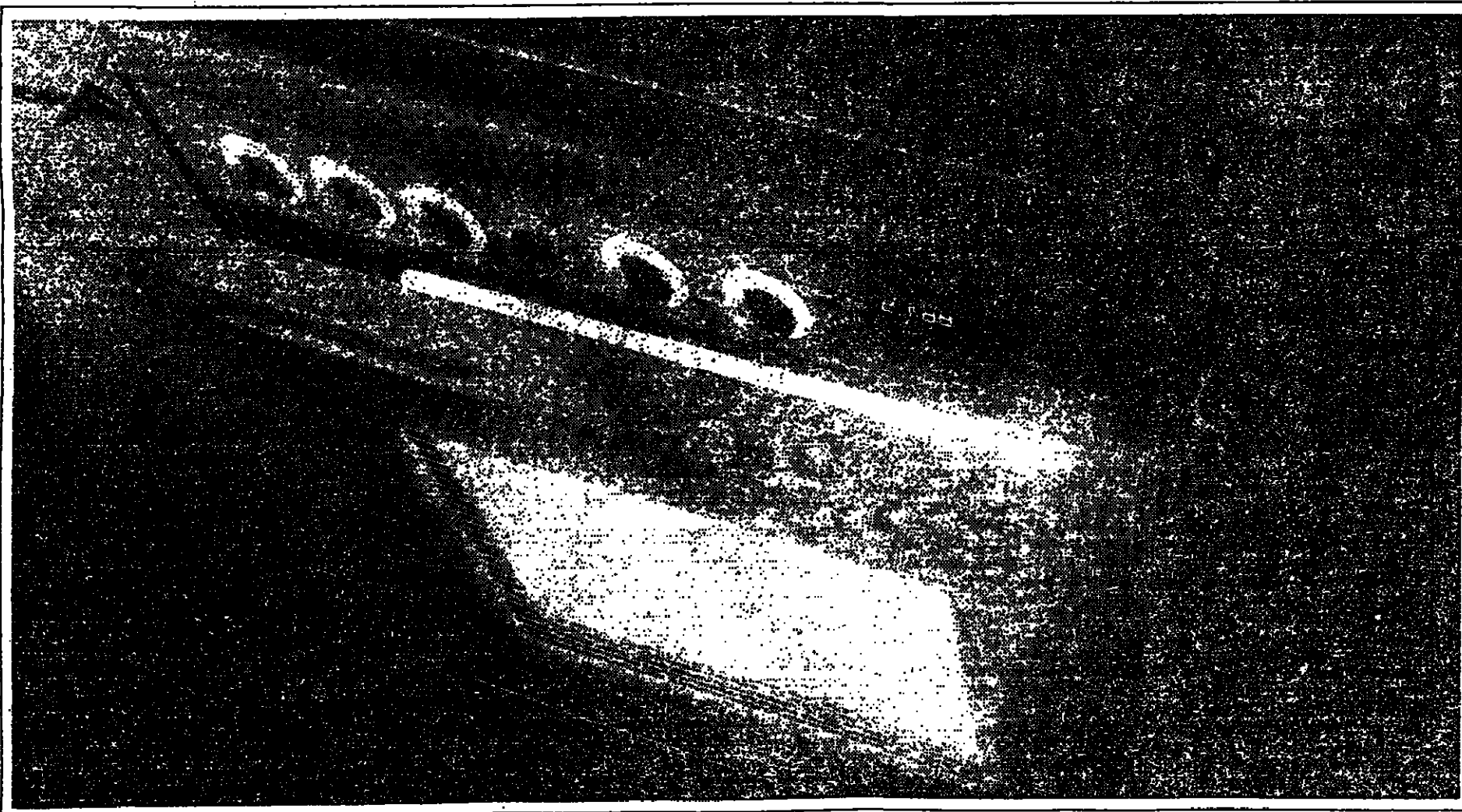
Inefficiency eats into rich harvest

From Reuters in Moscow

THE Soviet Union has had a record grain harvest this year but up to a quarter of crops were lost in some areas due to storage and transport problems, a senior official said yesterday.

Leonid Vashchukov, of the State Statistics Office, told Pravda the harvest would total 240 million tonnes, surpassing the previous record of 237 million, set in 1978. The figure confirmed estimates issued last month by a government official. Last year's harvest was 211 million tonnes.

Mr Vashchukov acknowledged losses of 20 to 25 per cent of crops in certain areas due to problems with labour, fuel, transport and storage.



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Phantom of the paradise

Philip Howard

Cloud-cuckoo-land is the cliché of the week. The prime minister used it to handbag European monetary union. Picking up the nice knock-down phrase, the director-general of the CBI said that the TUC was still stuck in the Seventies, somewhere close to cloud-cuckoo-land. Both of them got the term wrong. It is not surprising that the other European heads of state were confused about exactly what Mrs Thatcher had in mind, though I daresay that her wild, wild eyes and tone of voice gave them a good idea.

Cloud-cuckoo-land is an old joke, an expression, grossly misunderstood, widely misused and useful for the instant images that politicians manipulate. It has become a derogatory vogue term, supposed to mean a silly sort of place, part away with the birds, part cuckoo, part castle-in-the-air, and wholly undesirable. That is mildly what the prime minister thinks of European union. Before the nonsense goes any further, it is worth recalling that the original cloud-cuckoo-land was a very desirable and highly successful state, the ancestor of our Utopia and never-never land.

It was a city built on air as a stronghold for the birds above the plain of Phlegra in Greece. The *Birds*, a comedy by Aristophanes, was first performed at the great Dionysia festival of 414 BC. It tells the story of an ingenious Athenian called Persuader, who gets the birds to build a city in the clouds, and so compels the besieged gods, cut off from their food of sacrifice, to accept humiliating terms.

As it was being played, the imperial Athenian navy, the most formidable armament that had ever issued from a Greek harbour, was sailing across the known world to a remote island in the far south west. It was an expedition far more futile than the Falstaff campaign, and it was on collision course with disaster. Even the dimmest member of the audience could grasp the satirical connection between the visionary ambitions of the birds and the imperialist ambitions of Athens. Perhaps Aristophanes' masterpiece took only second prize because of Athenian jingoism and Gotha headlines in the pop press of the day.

Nephelococcygia, cloud-cuckoo-land, was indeed fantastic, but in the play it is crowned by brilliant success. It is shown to be a better place than either Athens or heaven itself. For example, entrance is refused to common informers, chat-show hosts, tabloid journalists, libel lawyers, weather forecasters and other plagues of society then and now. By surrounding itself with strict customs barriers and tariffs, cloud-cuckoo-land sets an archetypal example for Fortress Europe. The flavour of the first cloud-cuckoo-land in *The Birds* is far-off, paradisaical, infinitely desirable and

greatly preferable to the ugly here and now. This is not the impression the prime minister gives of her attitude to European union. In Athens 24 centuries ago, there was disaster in the air. The first great European civilisation was about to crash in its Sicilian expedition. Cloud-cuckoo-land is a charming and wistful fantasy of better times and better places, somewhere over the rainbow.

Nevertheless, we are all Europeans now. It is no bad thing for our politicians, who are widely perceived as tunnel-visioned philistines (as they were also by Aristophanes), to refer to the roots of our common literature. They do not even need to cock it up. (Cloud-cuckoo-land was dedicated to the Persian Prince Cock, the god of war of birds.) There are plenty of apposite topical references to our present troubles in *The Birds*. For example, I cast Jacques Delors as the oracle-monger, who speaks self-seeking prophecies in high-flown Eurababble: "Dear girl, divinely inspired, if thou dost as I bid, thou shalt surely / Soar in the clouds as an eagle; refuse, and thou shalt become an / Eagle, or even a dove, or a woodpecker tapping the oak tree."

After a referendum Persuader prophesies back: "But when an impudent scoundrel cometh uninvited and maketh himself a bloody nuisance to them that do carry out the sacrifice, and asketh of a share of our money, then shalt thou sock him hard between the ribs with thy handbag." Then at the end of *The Birds* a delegation arrives from the gods to sue for peace. With the other European heads of state comes an uncouth figure from a rude and faraway land, who dresses in a funny way, and cannot speak intelligibly. In the play he is Triballus, God of the Thracians. Today, I cast him as Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, who wears clothes that would not do in Finchley, keeps on getting snarled in indignified company in nightclubs by paparazzi, and is so very disrespectful about our prime minister.

Not all the Utopian qualities of cloud-cuckoo-land are helpful. It is not just that there will be no hard Ecu up there. There will be no money at all. And private property will be abolished. But one obvious echo from the play is the heroine. At the end, Persuader demands from the gods as his bride Mrs Sovereignty, the beautiful Miss Whiplash, warrior queen who rules the world. She descends, radiant in her wedding dress, bearing the thunderbolt of Zeus. In his allegory, Mrs Sovereignty represented for Aristophanes a return to paternalistic Toryism from the populist demagoguery that he thought had ruined Athens. The world has changed. But I daresay we could find someone somewhere whose head would fit that old wedding tiara.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Can it really be but one short week since Englishmen were running around their gardens, trying: "How horrible, fantastic, incredible it is, that we should be digging trenches and trying on baggy trousers here because of a deep depression over a far-away ocean between two occluded fronts of which we know nothing?"

Strange it was, that Pre-Wind period. I did not myself dig any trenches, having replaced all my fences after the Last Lot, thereby obviating the need, when storm clouds once more threatened this island race, to sink concrete stanchions as per my esteemed order, bolt 4x4 uprights thereto, attach 20 lengths best feather-boarding, creosote and make good to highest finish, remove all rubbish from site and go bankrupt. But all around me, last Friday, the gardens rang with the noise of spade on kneecap as frantic neighbours dug for against the imminent onslaught.

I did, however, a lot of batten down. Who dared not, given the hourly alarms of Met Office windmongers still singing, three years on, from meteorology's Pearl Harbour? Quite how far up the mobility-scale to batten was another matter: clearly, notes should not be placed in milk-bottles, nor even milk-bottles on steps, but how about, say, crated milk-bottles? Should crates be lashed to gates? Or dustbins: since the First Great Hurricane, when lids flew like Frisbees, our old bins had all been replaced by wheelies. True, their lids were attached, but who could assess their potential for instability? Might they, when the typhoon struck, begin to roll? Was our hill looking at a Sorcerer's Apprentice situation? But if we moved our kerbside cars out of the way of the hurtling charge, it could only be back into the driveways from which we had already moved them out of the way of the falling slates.

How much of a tree should one lop? Was it riskier to crawl out and rope a dodgy chimney than to let the bricks fall where they may? Should hanging baskets merely be lowered to the ground and left, or brought indoors against the possibility that they might gradually rock

themselves across the lawn and through the lower panes of the greenhouse? What of the greenhouse itself — did one open its doors to prevent the wind's shattering it, or shut them to prevent the wind's blowing everything that was inside outside?

You did what you could, you went to bed, and you lay awake, ears cocked and trembling for the blitz. You did this three nights on the trot. But nothing happened. It was the Phoney Wind. On Monday, the Met Office confirmed that no blue birds had been blown over the white cliffs of Dover. Johnny could sleep in his own little room again. You were no longer advised to tether him to the boiler.

The days grew so calm and sunny, indeed, that I decided to paint the front door. I had been planning this for some time, but the propitious moment had not hitherto offered itself. Now it had. We had come through. The door that might have blown off had not even been invited to rattle. A celebration was required.

The paint went on a treat: when I stood back at last, the finish was impeccable. So smooth, so lustrous, that, were a vacancy suddenly to occur in the ranks of Joan Collins's maquilage team, I could have taken the door round as a reference. Leaving it to dry, I went in and poured myself a congratulatory Scotch. As I did so, the latch of the back door rattled. I looked through the window, but there was no one there. While I was looking out, a leaf flew by, and then another. The back door rattled again, and blew open.

By the time I got to the front door it resembled nothing so much as a kindergarten nature-table. There were sycamore seeds stuck to it, and little berries and a variety of insects so catholic as to whet even the most jaded entomological palate. I got the bumblebee off, because it was still in working nick, but as it flew away I could not forbear a sneer at a creature so dumb as not to appreciate the risk of being blown into a freshly painted door.

Fancy not knowing that a wind can suddenly come up out of nowhere.

Frances Gibb on the latest attempt to make the law match the way we live now

Divorce fit for a modern marriage

The proposals published yesterday for divorce reform, the biggest overhaul of the law in England and Wales for more than 20 years, come at a time of widespread concern at the levels of marriage breakdown. Last year more than 150,000 couples divorced in England and Wales, and on current trends it will not be long before 40 per cent of marriages can be expected to end in divorce, with a quarter of children under 16 affected by the experience.

The consensus of recent years has been that the divorce laws are confusing and misleading, unjust and discriminatory to couples who are less well-off, and likely to provoke needless hostility and bitterness through the role of fault (nearly three-quarters of divorces are based on adultery or unreasonable behaviour). Finally, the law does nothing to save marriages, where that might be possible, and it can make matters worse for children by forcing couples to make accusations and dwell on the past rather than sorting out the future. Reformers have therefore

tried to close the gap between divorce laws and reality.

There is a history of similar attempts. The last big review was in 1965, which led to the present legislation, enshrined chiefly in the Divorce Reform Act 1969. This was a big improvement on what had gone before. Its aim, as now, was to remove the bitterness and distress caused by the need to prove what was called a matrimonial offence. Hence the new principle was born of irretrievable breakdown of marriage as the sole ground for divorce. But fault persisted. Irretrievable breakdown was to be inferred from one of five grounds, three still involving fault. "Yesterday's" proposals finally sound the death knell of fault. Under them, the sole ground remains irretrievable breakdown of marriage, but this is to be proved by the passage of a 12-month minimum period in which couples must sort out all arrangements of custody and finance. Only then will the divorce order (no more decrees) be granted.

Will the proposals succeed? The consultation process over the past

two years has been dogged by criticisms either that divorce would be made easier or harder. It is a debate that has plagued discussion of divorce over the centuries. At the centre of this has been the extent to which church or state should limit the rights of individuals to end their marriages. In fact, for much of recorded history, neither church nor state played a role in divorce. The common feature of pre-Christian marriage, whether Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Celtic or other, was the relative ease of divorce.

Only with the rise of Christianity did control come. The right of divorce, which until about the 10th century was in most places a domestic and private matter, was gradually eroded. With the Reformation, the power Rome had taken was reduced in many countries, but the state exercised authority in its place. John Milton, lamenting the restrictive divorce laws, urged a return to what he saw as England's lost heritage of liberal divorce before the Norman conquest.

Yet not until this century did

the divorce laws move back towards control by the married couple. With the latest reforms, the state's role will be further reduced: courts will not be required to adjudicate on fault, but will help couples sort out the future.

The huge increase in divorce is not a sign of the breakdown of the family, but a measure of how it has become more accessible and cheaper, no longer the preserve of the upper middle classes. Since 1939 the number has grown from 10,000 a year to 58,000 in 1979 and about 140,000 at the end of the Seventies. Legal aid, the 1969 act, better assistance for divorced wives and general affluence have all been factors.

But if divorce is now available, is it — some ask — too available? Would the new proposals make divorce easier or harder? Any reform must steer a path between the critics in both camps. Mindful of this, the Lord Chancellor, to whom a divorce bill would fall, has in recent months softened the ground for the report's appearance. Divorce over time, he has

said, which requires couples to consider children and their future first, is not an easy option.

The Law Commission's own answer is that the proposals encourage a new approach which might be harder for some, easier for others. In particular it will be easier for couples who now are forced to separate for years before petitioning for divorce, but harder for those who would not be able to dissolve the marriage as quickly as now.

The argument about ease or difficulty is not central to the spirit of the reforms, however. The reformers say they are not so naïve as to believe that laws can either hold marriages together or cause them to fall apart; nor that good laws can remove all pain from divorce. They can, however, reduce the anguish involved. By reducing the conflict, the Commission says, the reforms should minimise harm to children, and encourage parents to look to how they can best meet their responsibilities in the future, rather than dwelling on the unhappiness of the past.

America swaps spin doctors for a doctor of philosophy

In normal times, Dr John Silber would not be favourite for the governorship of Massachusetts. He is a Texan philosopher whose first love is Immanuel Kant. He likes to solve problems from original principles, dismissing most current ideas with a thrust of his withered hand and a withering gaze. In his personal manner he affects the austerity of Socrates, his other hero. To an electorate that has been wooed for decades by honeyed words and handouts, this year's Democratic candidate ought long ago to have been political "dead meat" for the gulls of Boston harbour.

But these are not normal times. Massachusetts has a hole in its heart after the collapse of the machine that Michael Dukakis built. Economic miracles have been revealed as mirages. The proud state of the early Puritans has become a joke, and it wants someone to make it serious again.

In the year since he took campaigning leave from the presidency of Boston University, John Silber has broken every rule in the party back's handbook. He has talked of "the phenomenal racism of Jews". He has called his adopted state "a welfare magnet" for immigrants. He has written off one section of the electorate as so riddled with drug addicts as to be not worth speaking to. He has blamed working women for neglecting their children. He has suggested that when the old are "ripe to go" it is foolish to waste money keeping them alive.

When questioned about his so-called "Silber shockers", he does not back off in the time-honoured manner of the professional politician. He backs up his assertions by appeals to unclouded thinking and the application of favourite fundamentals of thought. He uses Kant to set high standards of personal behaviour, invoking the "categorical imperative" that moral actions are those whose guiding maxim can be universally enjoined. In his book-length manifesto entitled *Straight shooting — what's wrong with America and how to fix it*, he writes that there is not one logic for scientists, another for bookmakers and physicians, another for artists and politicians. "There is one ethic, one set of principles for the guidance of human conduct."

Not surprisingly, the prospect of a philosopher-governor has filled



Peter Stothard, US editor, on the rise of John Silber (above), the likely governor of Massachusetts after Tuesday's election and a man with ambitions to reform the nation

some sections of the state with alarm. All politics is about horse-trading, but Massachusetts politics is one of the biggest markets in the nation. "I could see John Silber taking Kant to Tennessee," said a former colleague, "but to Boston... The mind boggles."

To others, John Silber is the straight-talking incorruptible who is set to purge them of the spirit of his disgraced predecessor. In this year's Democratic primary the electors threw out virtually everyone who had ever met Michael Dukakis. Now is the time, they say, to finish the job.

What can they expect? And will Dr Silber, if he succeeds in straightening the mores of Massachusetts, be casting his eye further afield, to "fixing" everywhere else too? Those are the questions now exercising the powers of the Democratic party. The campaign itself has dulled in recent days.

There have been no new "shockers". The Republican candidate, William Weld, a wealthy patrician insider whose wife is a Roosevelt, has given up the falling fight to show Dr Silber as a maniacal know-it-all. Instead the two men slug it out on television over the details of the city budget. The Democratic lead in the polls, aided by the national trend, has stretched until a defeat for Dr Silber next Tuesday would be considered a shock in itself.

So, what will victory mean? Dr Silber sets out in his book a case for radical changes, particularly in American education. He wants children to be taught in the manner of a hundred years ago by means of moral maxims. "We wish we were horses, then beggars would ride" is his favourite, followed by "the idle fool is whipped at school" and "Queens and kings must die in the dust".

He wants huge state investment in pre-school education to right the wrongs of a society in which, quoting Juvenal, "luxury is more ruthless than war". He wants junior schools to stay open from 7am to 6pm. He is not afraid of advocating big expenditures but also wants a 25 per cent cut in federal employees over five years and a balanced budget. How will he do it all? By cutting waste, and by using his aggressive mind to convince the unbelievers that he will do the cutting with his own hands, if he be.

Dr Silber makes two claims as a philosopher. The first is that it is hard to pull the wool over his eyes; the second is that he has a clear grip of purpose and priority. Some of America's troubles stem from a simple failure to grasp the real difficulties of democracy, he claims. So, in addition to the precepts of Kant, he likes to cite

the problems of Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*. How can heroic ideals be best matched to the whims of the mob? "More study makes Massachusetts a better state," that is a supreme Silber motto.

If he succeeds in any of his high aims to restore competitiveness and confidence to state and country he will certainly be a rarity. Strong marriages of practical politics and philosophical theory are not frequent in British and American life. Arthur Ballou wrote books of philosophy seeking to persuade his supporters that since nothing could be proved about anything they might as well continue with their old Tory prejudices. The anti-Platonism of Richard Crossman contributed little to Labour governments and a lot to Crossman's isolation. Labour's most formidable professional philosopher, Bryan Magee, was accused out of politics altogether. In America there is the towering example of Thomas Jefferson, but similarities with Dr Silber stop at the shared troubles with their right arms.

In the Boston suburbs this week, liberal critics were kinder to listen Dr Silber to Mussolini, stressing the men's liking for moral authoritarianism, ambitious public projects and the sound of their own voices. Supporters countered that this was a ridiculous slur, that Dr Silber is a genuine conservative intellectual who respects the institutions he is trying to reform.

At Boston University, whose reputation Dr Silber has greatly improved during his two decades in office, students debated the difficulty of applying Kantian principles, such as the absolute ban on lying, to the political process. "The principles themselves may be fine," said one. "The trouble is in deciding how they should be used, what other factors should be taken into account. John Silber thinks that things are absolute which are really just his opinion. The logic then becomes just rhetoric. That's what's frightening."

Frightening or not, Dr Silber has already done something for politics in America. Next Tuesday, in polls that include congressional elections, there are races between old-timers and new, spenders and tax-cutters, bums and bandits. But there is not another contest in which Kant would even get a look in unless he were spelt with a "c".

Blood on the carpet

The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, living some-what in the time-honoured manner of the Bundesbank these days, has had an additional indignity heaped on her head: she has been accused of unpatriotic behaviour. A decision to award a £100,000 carpeting contract to a Dutch manufacturer has prompted strenuous protests from the ailing British carpet industry.

The disclosure that the floors of the Bank of England's new registration centre in Gloucester will be covered by ESCO of the Netherlands comes to light on the day that 1,000 workers at the Kidderminster carpet division of Colovoll lose their jobs. Nicholas Ridley, the former trade secretary, has written to Sir Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the bank's governor, taking up the complaint of angry contractors in his constituency that British and other European manufacturers were excluded from the tender document.

His intervention elicited the assurance from the bank that the details in the tender document, specifying Dutch carpet, were not set in concrete. Leigh-Pemberton wrote: "The tender document for supplying and laying the carpet will shortly be issued, specifying ESCO. This is a product of quality which is already very familiar to us from its use in other premises, and can be obtained at a most competitive price. The tender process does not, however, preclude tenderers offering alternatives of suitable quality and design."

But before the deadline for tendering had expired, a letter of intent was sent to the ESCO sales office at Abingdon.

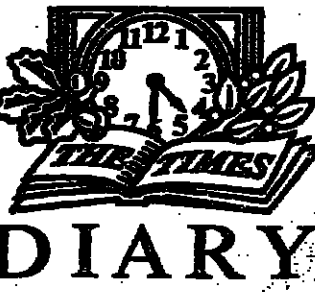
A spokeswoman for the Bank of England tried to soothe passions: "It's our policy to shop around. You would not expect a British institution to do otherwise."

While the House of Lords murses its disappointment in the face of the defeat of the dog registration bill, peers might be interested to hear of the Soviet solution to the problem of stray dogs. The eastern Soviet town of Ust Kamchatka has issued a system of rewards for those nimble enough to catch stray dogs. The capture of one stray dog equals a 10 kopek reward, 10 dogs equal a vacuum cleaner, 50 hounds a fridge, and those who achieve a century can shuffle home with a colour television.

Pandit-panned

The combined forces of Mrs Thatcher and the Queen have failed to stir Britain's Indian community into enthusiasm for funding the new Nehru gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The 800,000-strong Indian and south-east Asian community here has so far contributed about £100,000 to the £2.2 million cost of the gallery, to house 30,000 pieces of art from the sub-continent when it is opened this month by the Queen.

"We are slightly disappointed," admits Julie Laird, director of the appeal, launched by the prime minister. "We are still approaching people as they seem to take a long time to make up their minds. They like to find out what each other is thinking and doing."



The largest donations have come from British companies, headed by the Oppenheimer Charitable Trust and British Aerospace. "Many Indians are orientated towards giving to people rather than to art," says Laird. "We are hopeful that when they see the educational value of the gallery for their children, who have never seen their own country, they will contribute more."

Par espion

The last refuge of a scoundrel is not, it seems, patriotism, but a five-kopek stamp. Kim Philby is to be posthumously honoured with four other Soviet spies in a set of two million stamps to be issued at the end of the month. "Soviet intelligence agents have proved very popular," say the postal authorities there, perhaps anxious to beef up KGB credibility after the knocking the Soviet secret service system has taken at the hands of Oleg Gordievsky among others.

Though they may be adventurous with their own stamps, the Russians were more circumspect last month with their second stamp produced jointly with the

United States. The 25-kopek stamp featured the cosy marine world of sea otters, dolphins, and sea lions.



Alimentary, my dear

A new housekeeper is sought at Sherlock Holmes' residence, transplanted from 221b to 239 Baker Street. She will no longer be required to humour the violin-playing, meerschaum-puffing lodger whose movements could never be forecast from one moment to the next, but she will have to be on call to supply information about the great man to a steady stream of visitors from all over the world. She will also have to become accustomed to being addressed as Mrs Hudson.

A spokesman for the Sherlock Holmes' Museum, which is advertising the job, says: "Mrs Hudson looked after Holmes for some 25 years. She worked hard and put up with a lot. The duties today are easier. If the successful applicant has a fine palate, she will be pleased to know that the tea she

will be brewing up for visitors is Mazawattee — "Queen Victoria's favourite cuppa". The salary is not specified, but it is unlikely to be the " princely sum" that the real Holmes paid the real Mrs Hudson — sufficient, according to Conan Doyle, for her to buy the premises.

Nature, red...

The National Trust is seeking revenge on the Open Spaces Society, the country's oldest national conservation body, for having the temerity to call the Trust an elitist organisation devoted to the protection of a prize collection of dinosaurs. Rodney Legg, chairman of Open Spaces, made the remarks last week at a lecture organised and paid for by the National Trust to mark the society's 125th anniversary.

The Trusts' fury about the criticism, aired in the ornate surroundings of the Great Hall of the Royal Society of Arts, was compounded when it was reported on the front page of *The Times* the next day. Now the Trust has sent a letter to Open Spaces asking it to share the cost of the lecture.

Warren Davis, press and public relations manager of the National Trust, wrote complaining about the loss of £345, the cost of booking the hall. "In the circumstances I wonder if Open Spaces Society is likely to consider making a contribution towards the deficit?"

Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the society, retorted: "We are not going to be making a contribution. The Trust never asked for one before the meeting. They are obviously still sore at the criticism. I cannot understand why. When did they last make the front page of *The Times*?"



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SIR GEOFFREY RESIGNS

The departure of Sir Geoffrey Howe from the government removes from high office the last of Margaret Thatcher's original cabinet of 1979. While his going has been on the cards since his dismissal from the Foreign Office last year, the break remains a dramatic one for its personal as well as political implications. Mrs Thatcher may tower over her party as she towers over all she surveys. But her tower is an ever more lonely one.

Sir Geoffrey was a closet Thatcherite even before Mrs Thatcher arrived to lend her name to free-market Toryism. His legal rigour underpinned the supply side reforms first plotted by Edward Heath and his "Selsdon" comrades in 1969-70. He fought, and failed, to achieve trade union reform in the early 1970s. He then emerged as the progenitor of a (relatively) ruthless monetarism as Mrs Thatcher's economic right-hand man.

As Chancellor of the Exchequer throughout her first administration, he was, even more than the prime minister, the architect of the deflationary policies that were intended, alongside supply side reform, to "shake out" inefficiency and uncompetitiveness from British industry. His 1981 budget, an event of Crippsian severity, brought his leader close to political catastrophe by the end of that year. But she was rescued by the Falklands war and the cautious pre-election reflation of 1983. Mrs Thatcher was often wetter than Sir Geoffrey at this time. He was the archetypal dry. These were years of Howism, not Thatcherism.

So why could she not keep him aboard? Why, even after he went native at the Foreign Office, could she not handle so intellectually sympathetic a colleague? The answer, like so much in politics, lies deep in the personalities of individuals. At the Foreign Office, Mrs Thatcher found Sir Geoffrey not only a focus of disagreement over Europe but, like Francis Pym before him, a weak defender of his position. He irritated her to the point where she simply could not have him across the table, and banished him, with considerable ineptitude, to the leadership of the House. He sadly confirmed her prejudices by an undignified, and for him an uncharacteristic, squabble over titles and accommodation.

For a time it appeared that Sir Geoffrey and his old friend, Douglas Hurd, might form a

fifth column within the cabinet, a cabal of Tory moderates on the wider shores of Thatcherism, perhaps even with Nigel Lawson as a closet ally. Mrs Thatcher's effective dismissal of Mr Lawson during the Alan Walters affair put paid to such hopes. Now Sir Geoffrey too has gone, pleading his unhappiness with her performance on EC union in Rome. Mrs Thatcher has never been good at man-management. Now her inability to pat a back and squeeze an arm when such coaxing might save her much trouble has landed her with yet another cabinet crisis.

She will survive it. If Sir Geoffrey believes he can precipitate a leadership election this month with the reopening of parliament he must surely be mistaken. The Conservative party may be in electoral difficulty, but it is unlikely to tear itself apart just now. The Rome summit was an aberration, a cynical charade. Another summit next month is in the offing, and is likely to yield a less belligerent outcome.

Undoubtedly the Europe issue is dividing the party. But it is not another tariff reform, nor another appeasement. The debate is over degrees of sovereignty, subsidiarity, even just the mood music of European co-operation. Undoubtedly Sir Geoffrey has found Mrs Thatcher's tone of voice intolerable. He has become a flag-waver for the pro-unionists. He feels he has a cause to which he wishes to attach his name.

But he is not going to be the next leader of the Conservative party. Nor is it likely that a stalking horse for the most plausible "European" candidate, Michael Heseltine, will run in the next few days. If that stalking horse is Sir Geoffrey himself it will surely end in tears.

The Conservatives tacitly accepted, six months ago, that they would fight the next election under Mrs Thatcher's leadership. As she showed in the House of Commons this week, that leadership remains robust, undaunted and unchallenged. The next generation of Tory leaders are certainly in waiting, but they are waiting within the cabinet, not outside it. Sir Geoffrey's going is sad. He has been a figure of competent reassurance, liberal, sensitive, balanced, the best sort of British politician. But he has departed. And she is still there.

MORALS OF DIVORCE

Any proposal to improve the legal pathway through divorce is likely to be accused of encouraging a moral and social evil. The Law Commission's suggested reforms to the divorce law, published yesterday, will not escape that charge. But the analysis is false. Divorce is the way out of a breakdown in a marriage. It offers a legal means of relief from personal stress and unhappiness whose origins lie beyond the reach of law. The provision of that relief as painlessly as possible is a public benefit, not something to be deplored as undermining morality.

What is required of a good divorce law, as the Law Commission has realised, is that it should offer fair and peaceful arbitration between the parties, including any children, where interests conflict. An attempt to use the law to bolster an idealised pattern of lifelong marriage would be both unproductive and a source of further misery. The existing divorce law, with its hollow requirement that the breakdown of marriage should first have to be "proved" to the technical satisfaction of a court, is a relic of a former assumption in divorce law that it is a proper and feasible function of the law to keep a marriage alive.

The commission's most important proposal is that there should be a standard 12-month delay for "consideration and reflection". In other words, divorce would require a year's notice. This interval would greatly increase the scope for conciliation, not only to see if the marriage were healable but also to provide a friendly rather than an adversarial context for settling property, maintenance, custody and access disputes. Experience has shown that such "divorce guidance counselling" greatly improves the chances of a successful outcome, not least for any children. Many a divorce turns sour only when lawyers start treating it as a battlefield.

If the courts can accept that one party has

behaved "unreasonably" simply on the assertion of the other, as now happens with so-called "quickie" divorce, it is no great extra step to accept the assertion of one party or the other that the marriage has ended, subject only to the passage of time for due reflection. In this respect the Law Commission's reforms amount to "divorce on demand", but that is the way the law has been tacitly operated for years in the great majority of cases. This corresponds to the reality of marriage in modern secular society: where a relationship of personal affection no longer exists the law should not pretend it does. There is nothing to stop those with a different view of marriage applying it to themselves.

The Law Commission's proposals should be acceptable to government and parliament because they satisfy the only test that should apply in this area, namely that the law should be abreast of human behaviour, describing rather than prescribing. There is little a concerned government can do to fortify marriages so that they break down less often, though the plea of the marriage counselling service Relate for more public funds to support conciliation points to one direction where a stitch in time can save more than nine. A marriage saved by counselling is far cheaper for the state than looking after the fragmented parts of a family after breakdown.

Divorce was once heavily stigmatised, and all but closed to any but the very rich. The stigma has largely departed, but its memory still affects public debate in the unthinkingly punitive assumption that divorce ought to be painful to the parties. Divorce should never be casual — any more than marriage — and should avoid excessive hurt to those involved. The Law Commission's proposals acknowledge this. They indicate the rational and realistic direction in which the law should move.

FOR WHOM THE ROAD TOLLS?

In the late 17th century, when road pricing was first introduced to Britain, a barrier of spears or pikes set up across a road gave its name to the turnpike. Horsemen were not allowed to pass without paying a toll. The system lasted less than 200 years, and so enraged those who could not afford to pay that there was eventually an uprising against tolls in the Rebecca riots of 1843 in South Wales. More recently, Oslo commuters have fire-bombed the new toll-booths erected to charge drivers for access to the city centre. Undaunted, the government will next week announce a bill to allow private companies to build toll roads and bridges alongside the existing British road network. This too will be misconceived.

When the Conservatives came to power, there were 18½ million vehicles on the road. Now there are more than 24 million. Road traffic is forecast to rise by between 83 and 142 per cent by 2025, presumably if price and congestion are not used to stop it. Environmentalists say that building new roads will simply increase still further the volume of traffic. None the less, the government is determined to stimulate demand by its £17 billion road-building programme. The new bill will enable some of these roads to be built and operated by the private sector.

The purpose is to transfer the risk of cost overruns from the taxpayer to the private company. In return for building the road, the company will be allowed to levy tolls to the road users. Already ten such schemes are planned, including a second Severn crossing, a relief road to the north of Birmingham and a motorway link between the M25 and Chelmsford.

What kind of risk does the government

envisage? The pressure on the government to rescue an abandoned road project would be irresistible. The government believes that private companies will bring more efficient management techniques to the road business than bureaucrats. Yet a tollbooth is a tollbooth. If the transport department merely wants to concentrate the private companies' minds on costs, it could put its own roadbuilding projects out to tender and enforce an absolute cash limit on the winner.

The most persuasive argument against private roads is that they are not really private at all, except in the cost of their finance. The government can borrow long-term for 11½ per cent; Taylor Woodrow would be lucky to get away with 13 per cent and similar projects tend to require a 20 per cent yield. Bankers will rightly be sceptical about recouping their capital and will expect correspondingly higher prices. Tolls work in sparsely populated countries such as America, where motorway exits are about 20 miles apart, and where there are few alternative free routes on offer. Even in France, many private road operators have gone bankrupt and have had to be nationalised. In densely-populated Britain, which already has a closely-woven cobweb of roads, the private operators will face both competition from free roads, and the expense of setting up toll stations every few miles.

Roads require the most meticulous preparation, involving issues of compulsory purchase and public enquiry way beyond the resources of most private organisations. If the government really wants toll roads in Britain, as a form of marginal pricing of long-distance travel, then it should pay for them itself and keep the profit.

Identity of the 'Fifth Man'

From Lord Armstrong of Ilminster

Sir, Mr Chapman Pincher (October 29) is of course right to say that details of John Cairncross's recruitment as a Soviet agent and of his activities in that role have been familiar for many years — even without the help of Mr Pincher's books and Mr Peter Wright — to any one who is knowledgeable in this field.

What will be new to many is the fact, now confirmed by Mr Gordievsky, that Cairncross was regarded by the KGB as one of "the magnificent five".

Since "the five" were always a KGB category, Mr Gordievsky's testimony on this point carries great weight. Four were identified by a perjury verdict — Burgess, Maclean, Philby and Blunt, but as seen from here Cairncross has hitherto been only one of several possible candidates for the final name to make up the total number.

The effect of Mr Gordievsky's testimony is that Cairncross must now be regarded as by far the most likely candidate for the last of the five to be clearly identified — though not for that reason necessarily the least valuable to his masters.

Mr Pincher also fairly suggests that "Cairncross has no relevance in the Hollis case". What he does not point out is that what Mr Gordievsky's testimony has done is virtually to destroy the case for thinking that Sir Roger Hollis might have been a Soviet agent — a case that Mr Pincher deployed in the two books to which he refers but which was always stronger in the ingenious imagination of Mr Peter Wright than in reality.

It is too late to make amends to Sir Roger Hollis himself, but in justice to the good name of a loyal public servant and for the sake of his family I hope that we have now heard the last of this damaging but, as I believe, unsustainable allegation.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ARMSTRONG,
House of Lords,
October 30.

M3 extension

From Mr J. R. Lucas, FBA

Sir, Mr Justice McCullough's judgment against the Winchester protesters (report, October 27) was in part based on a narrow point of law, that the 1988 EC directive did not apply to Ministry proposals because they were "already in the pipeline".

Whatever the merits of that as a legal argument, it surely would give the lie to the government's professed concern for the environment if it presses ahead with the scheme without making an environmental impact assessment.

The road would go through an area of outstanding natural beauty and special scientific interest: it is exactly the sort of case where such an assessment ought to be made. The minister's decision whether in fact to have one will be a clear indication of whether he is the minister for the environment or the minister against it.

Yours etc.,
J. R. LUCAS,
Merton College,
Oxford,
October 27.

Burial at sea

From the Reverend R. J. Lowe, RN (ret)

Sir, Regarding your report, "Sea burial bodies float back" (October 29): until the first years of World War Two HM Ships carried a supply of iron cannon balls. When a casualty was seen into his hammock for burial at sea two or three of these cannon balls were sewn in with him to ensure that he remained asleep in the deep.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. LOWE,
75 Conifer Crest,
Wash Common,
Newbury, Berkshire,
October 29.

In defence of bards

From Mr J. Graham-Jones

Sir, Under Word Watching today (October 25) the definition of Gorse, more correctly, the Gorse of Bards of the Isle of Britain (i.e., Great Britain) reads: "a meeting of daft, anachronistic bards and druids in Wales..."

The 1,500 Welsh bards, highly skilled in the literary arts of their language, come from all walks of life: all the professions including bishops, judges and professors, farmworkers and landowners, business people and tradesmen. Their flowing robes are symbolic of equality in their own language. "Daft" they are not.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH GRAHAM-JONES,
Hendre, 9 St Anthony's Way,
Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

Control of 'pest' birds

From Mr Anthony Boosey

Sir, The European Commission has persuaded the British government to consider changing the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in order to conform with the EC 1979 Birds Directive. Under this proposal the 13 species of birds at present listed in Part II of Schedule 2 of the Act, namely crow, collared dove, great black-backed gull, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull, jackdaw, jay, magpie, feral pigeon, rook, house sparrow, starling and woodpigeon would be transferred to Part I of the Schedule.

UK role in future of Community

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, Michael Binyon's analysis ("British vision of EC future under scrutiny in Rome talks", October 27) of the European Commission's report on its proposed amendment to the European treaties (*A Single Community*) is far removed from the actual document now in the House of Commons library. I hope the full report will be read as widely as possible. It bears out the deep concern I expressed in my recent Bow Group pamphlet as chairman of the Conservative backbench committee on European affairs.

1. There could never be "any sole Commission right to make foreign policy". The Commission calls for a "common foreign policy" also covering "security matters, given that defence is an essential element of security".

2. The Commission does not say "defence should best stay with the WEU". It does say: "The new Treaty should, in general terms, point the way towards a common security policy, including defence" — with majority voting and back to the ill-fated League of Nations.

3. Far from "slapping down" the European Parliament, demands, the Commission says "the powers of the European Parliament must be strengthened", including "joint responsibility for Community revenue". The European Parliament, it claims, is "first and foremost" the forum for European democracy.

Binyon omits reference to the Commission's calls for a taxation policy geared to the internal market and for a common energy policy.

The Commission's report, which is neither "comprehensive", "coherent", "cautious" nor "visionary", is a blueprint for a federal Europe. It shows they are trying to bounce us out of co-operation (which is what we signed up to) into a loss of control and of consent.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH,
House of Commons,
October 29.

Gulf build-up

From the Reverend Dr Kenneth G. Greet

Sir, I am puzzled by your report of October 25 ("Lack of interest in bureaucratic jobs says UK's influence in EC") which claims that the scarcity of job applicants from Britain in the EC Commission's current recruitment competition will result in Britain "having a smaller and smaller say in the running of the Commission".

Appointments to the EC institutions are usually made by competition open to all applicants who meet the qualifying criteria and not just to civil servants, as you

imply. They are, of course, made by the institutions rather than the national governments.

An official of the EC institutions (according to the definitive text of the treaty and staff regulations — not "civil servants") is bound to "carry out his duties and conduct himself solely with the interests of the Communities in mind; he shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government, authority, organisation or person outside his organisation", according to the staff regulations.

To imply, as the report does, that an official of British origin might provide influence on behalf of his own government is as inaccurate and improper as to suggest that a British civil servant might provide influence in Whitehall on behalf of any political party to which he may belong.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. K. TITHER,
The Old Bakery,
Healy Bone,
Cydweli, Dyfed,
October 28.

From Mr John S. N. Drew

Sir, There is indeed concern in the European Commission about the number of successful British applicants for posts in the European Community institutions. Your report, while pointing to the problem, does not mention the steps which are being taken to remedy it.

The commission is to organise two general entry competitions which will be published in January 1991 and September 1992. In addition, there has been a recruitment consultant working in these offices during the last year helping to brief those interested in a career in the European Community institutions. The post has been established in close cooperation with the European Staffing Unit of the Cabinet Office.

As a result of this increasing support to publicise careers in the European Community, I am pleased to say that the number of enquiries to these offices by potential applicants for Community posts has increased during the last year by several hundred per cent. Your report rightly points out that candidates for the current legal administrators' competition need to apply before November 9. From this office alone over 500 application forms have already been dispatched for this competition, which is a manifold increase on previous competitions.

Yours etc.,
JOHN DREW,
(Head of UK offices),
Commission of the European Communities,
Jean Monnet House,
8 Storey's Gate, SW1,
October 25.

Enterprise at 80

From Mr G. F. Harrison

Sir, Although in an entirely different field from the remarkable achievement of Mr Don Mackridge (October 19) may I report another Grandma Moses exploit?

At 60 years of age, with the enthusiastic encouragement of a close friend, I started rock-climbing and after the first time out was well and truly hooked. I still climb in the Lake District, Snowdonia, Scotland and the Dolomites. Nothing very difficult. "Hard very severe" at best. I shall be 80 in November.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON HARRISON,
New Place, High Street,
Whitchurch-on-Thames,
Reading, Berkshire.

From Mr William Howard

Sir, I was born in 1907 and spent all my working years in a bank. In my seventies I wrote an A-Z joke book to amuse my grandchildren, and to tempt them into reading. It was subsequently published and to date some 100,000 copies have been sold.

Four more books have followed and the last two, published in 1988, I wrote when I was on the threshold of 80. One of my last books, *Writing Jokes and Riddles*, was an attempt to expand children's vocabulary, and is in the National Curriculum Council's library.

Yours faithfully,
BILL HOWARD,
1 College Gardens,
New Malden, Surrey.

From Mr Muriel May

Sir, I am 86 years old and am endeavouring to master the complexities of a word processor, on which I have typed this letter.

Yours faithfully,
MURIEL MAY,
2 Burton Close,
North Walsham, Norfolk.

An ill wind

From Mr David Froome

Sir, May I enter a plea of mitigation on behalf of the Meteorological Office? As a result of their warnings last week my garden is tidy, free from garden furniture, flower pots and other summer impedimenta. My neighbours, also, have taken advantage of this morning's extra hour to carry out tasks normally delayed until New Year's Day.

Storms or no storms, the Meteorological Office have rendered the public a service.

I remain, yours faithfully,
DAVID FROOME,
15 Howard's Thicket,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
October 28.

Child benefit and multiple births

From Dr Elizabeth Bryan

Sir, Where the "first born" is not a single child but twins or triplets should not the mother receive the premium for all the children (report, October 25)?

A first-time mother, faced with caring for two or more babies rather than one, will be under far greater strains, emotional, physical or financial. She cannot benefit from the "hand-down" system since she must have two or three sets of everything from the start.

Moreover, the single child much more rarely requires the hiring of outside help.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH BRYAN,
(Medical Director),
Multiple Births Foundation,
Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital,
Goldhawk Road, W6,
October 25.

From Mrs Joy Breckwoldt

Sir, How can I explain to my daughter why her twin brother is worth £1 more a week than she is? My twins have an eight-minute birth difference.

Yours faithfully,
J. BRECKWOLDT,
86 Grove Park,
Knutsford, Cheshire,
October 25.

Family maintenance

From Mr Bruce Lidington

Sir, In its white paper on child maintenance (report, October 30) the government provided for the first time a uniform, nationally recognised formula for calculating the amount. This suggests that, after deducting reasonable living expenses the estranged parent should be required to provide up to half the disposable income toward his or her children.

Although this appears, subject to the definition of "reasonable", to be a positive advance, it raises a question. Since *de facto* "divorce upon demand" was introduced in the early 1970s many fathers have found that, as a direct consequence of a divorce they neither wanted nor believed to be in their children's best interests, they have been stripped of assets, rendered homeless and have been obliged to pay maintenance far in excess of half their total income. In some cases this has left them with less than £40 per week (by 1990 equivalents) to live on.

The white paper indicates that for many years these fathers have been overpaying to a serious degree.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE LIDINGTON,
(National council member,
Families Need Fathers),
159 Butler Road,
Harrow, Middlesex,
October 30.

Enterprise at 80

From Mr G. F. Harrison

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DAVID FROOME,
15 Howard's Thicket,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
October 28.

Where good Muslims are true Brits

Five years after
living in
Bradford,
Dervla Murphy
returns to find a
pre-election
community
rooted in
tolerance

The imam — in his late thirties, stocky and dignified — had a firm handshake, a soft voice, a glossy black beard and straight at you all the time. Doubt flickered over his face as I removed my shoes in the narrow hallway: with lamentable lack of foresight, I had travelled to Bradford wearing holey socks which clearly contradicted his image of a representative of *The Times*. However, that momentary doubt did not prevent our soon establishing a genuine rapport, relaxing on floor cushions in the parlour with a tea-tray between us.

It might seem odd that a "liberal" western writer should find herself at ease with Liaquat Hussain, one of the architects of the "anti-Rushdie" campaign in Britain. Obviously, our two-hour conversation could not have occurred if this shorthand phrase were accurate; the encounter was curiously moving — and reassuring. I knew myself to be in the presence of a good man, though the cultural chasm between us could never be bridged. From my side, despite the width of that chasm, I recognised integrity.



Mean streets, generous spirits: the people of areas such as this feel British, have proved themselves hard-working and law-abiding — and they expect to be listened to when they appeal for consideration

intolerance — and then, justifiably feeling threatened, allow their own tolerance to dwindle.

The imam was optimistic when we turned from recent troubles (still present, alas, for poor Salman Rushdie) to the future of Bradford's Muslims. "We are industrious, confident, intelligent. We don't think we are superior to others, but we do have self-esteem. Our people will change some of their minor customs, as they are doing also in Pakistan, but most will remain good Muslims." The Rushdie conflict, he suggested, had made young Muslims more

aware of their duty to preserve and defend their cultural identity. And, in response to relentless discrimination, they are becoming more independent-minded and stoical, no longer hoping for equal treatment, wasting less energy on resenting prejudice. Graduates who could not find jobs to match their degrees are going into commerce. He estimated that West Yorkshire can boast 100 Pakistani millionaires, all of whom started from the poverty line.

The great majority of Bradford's Asians are Mirpuris, who for many years clung to "the myth of

return". Now, consciously or unconsciously, they are busy defining and establishing themselves as British Muslims. And this sense of belonging in Britain — the imam explained — contributed to the vehemence of their generation's contribution to the "anti-Rushdie" campaign. A group of temporary migrant workers, firmly rooted elsewhere, might have been able to shrug off British indifference to their being wounded by the blasphemy they perceived (or were told existed) in "that book". A group that now feels British, and has proved itself

hard-working and law-abiding, not unreasonably expects to be listened to when it appeals for the sort of consideration that is accorded to its white Christian fellow citizens.

Akbar and Hussain are "average" representatives of the Bradford-born, habitually English-speaking generation; their fathers arrived in the Manningham area in 1962. They had been children when last I met them; now they are strapping, muscular young men who recalled their memories of the "anti-Rushdie" demonstrations and what an emotional relief it was to see "that book" being burnt. (Most 16-year-olds enjoy such dramas, whatever their genesis.) At first, the natural British reaction to that event merely exacerbated their hostility. Then, initially as part of an adolescent rebellion phase, they tried to view the whole tragic controversy from the "liberal" point of view. And although they had not come around to agreeing with it — a psychological impossibility, given their Islamic conditioning — they did now see it, surprisingly clearly.

"Muslims are not as prejudiced as whites," Hussain said. "No one will admit it in public, but some of us kids learnt a lot about Britain from all the fighting over Rushdie. That will be useful for us. It is bad news the whites can't learn, too..."

The imam thought Rushdie's book had made the young more aware of their duty to defend their culture. A 50-year-old plumber told me: "Bradford's mosque leaders were worried for years, seeing the kids turning modern. All that fuss was a trick to get the whole community marching behind them again. But it won't work. We are all British now, if the mullahs and imams can't see that they will be left behind. What worries us is much worse race relations and our three lads at the age to be attacked by white gangs — may be killed... Bradford was bad enough before — we didn't need a Rushdie campaign."

The next day, a local Labour, elected representative told me that race relations had not really been damaged. There was only a handful of people involved, he said, and when he was approached he made it clear that the issue of banning a book was not up for discussion — that did not happen in this country. Eventually, he said, most Muslims accepted this.

Of course, most Muslims did not accept the argument for one thing it is not true. As Richard Webster notes in his outstanding analysis of the tragedy (*A Brief History of Blasphemy*) an offensive-to-Christians book can be swiftly made unavailable in Britain. In 1967, almost the entire Penguin edition of *Sixty Maxims* was burnt one night by Allen Lane, personally, and the book was reported "out of print" next morning by the Penguin trade department. As Webster comments, Mr Lane was not a

practising Christian himself but "many of his friends and bookselling colleagues were and had conveyed to him their strong distaste for the book..."

Wandering about Bradford, my observations suggested that the imam was being over-optimistic about the proportion of young likely to remain "good Muslims". When I met Ambar — aged 22, elegant, poised, thoughtful — in an Asian youth club, I remarked on the startling fact that eight of the 13 notices on the board in the hall were women-related, which would have been unthinkable five years ago. Ambar smiled and gave the V-sign. Muslim relationships with white girls, she explained, were increasingly being found troublesome, leading to cross-cultural tension within the relationship and dissension within the home.

"So more and more young men are thinking, 'Why should we have all these hassles with white girls when there are plenty of lasses in our own community?' But before they can have Muslim girlfriends, we must be freed. That means they are no longer so keen to keep us in our place and some of our brothers are beginning to side with us against parents. Also a few older people, like my own mother, are

beside a Pakistani motor mechanic who smiled at my naive interest in the new Islamic party. He summed up the popular reaction of local Muslims: "We would be mad to vote for them — all fanatics with some crazy English convert standing for them in Bradford North. They will not take enough votes to make any difference to anyone. That's our Raving Lunatics Party!"

The indifference to the by-election seemed odd, given a general seething resentment of the poll tax. Perhaps they have had their fill of politics for the moment. In 1988 a superlatively incompetent Labour-controlled metropolitan council, obsessed by "fringe issues", was replaced by an equally incompetent and Tory-controlled council, known as Mrs Thatcher's northern flagship until it sank this year under the weight of its own ineptitude.

Bradford's poll tax, at £276, is exceptionally low but none the less hated for that. It hits the Asian community of extended families particularly hard; an eight-person household, which previously paid hundreds, must now find thousands.

In Underwood, one of three Bradford North wards with an almost 40 per cent Asian population, a former political activist who used to canvass for Labour told me that Muslims were disappointed with the party, which had given them no more support over Rushdie than the Tories. There could be a big swing away from Labour next week, he said, but it would not be noticed with so many Tories voting Labour against the poll tax.

Since 1985, despite the handicap of extremist councils, Bradford has been Bouncing Back as it resolved to do in 1980. Among my several reasons for falling in love with the city, five years ago, was its refusal to be counted out even when it was unmistakably down.

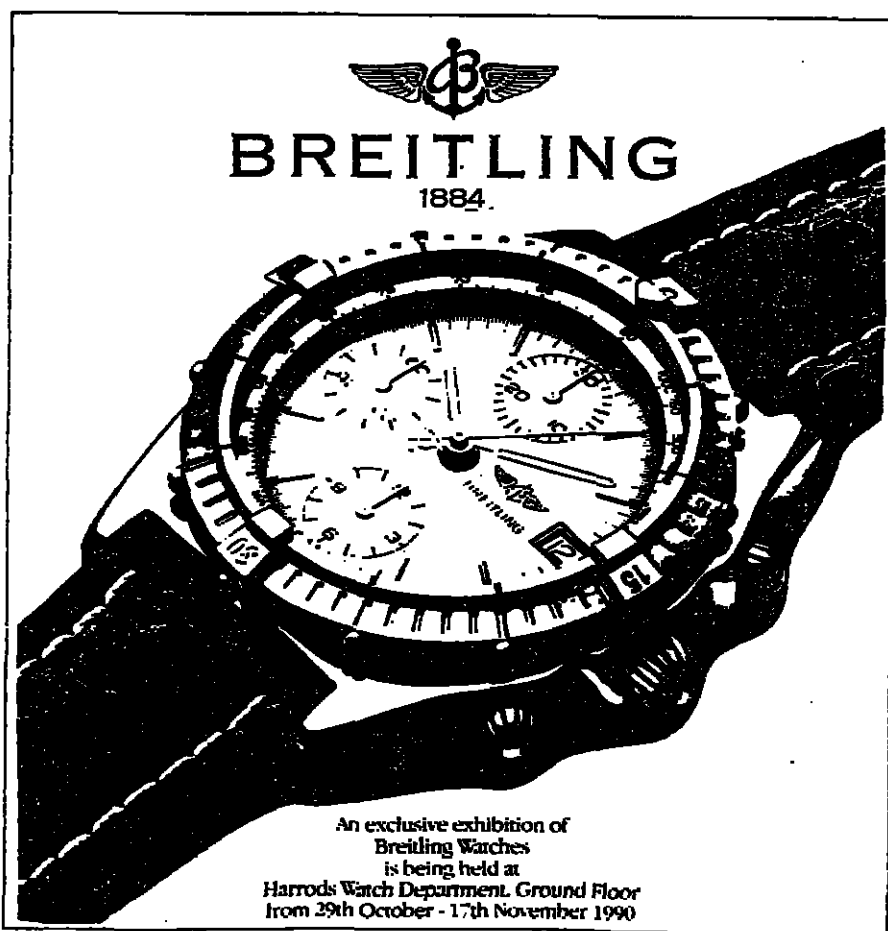
Recently a big clean-up revealed the long-forgotten fact that Bradford is built of golden sandstone. Now whole areas glow warmly, even under the city's famous lid of Pennine cloud, and on a sunny day the meanest streets look positively festive. Open spaces that I remember strewn with litter and rubble have been planted with grass, flowers, shrubs, saplings — and the residents marvel at how much this has done to raise morale. Scops rightly point out that, thus far, the majority of Pakistanis have not benefited from the Bounce Back. Yet a big minority have, as is evident if one walks around any largely Asian area, comparing the shops and restaurants with how they were in 1985.

Fortunately, nobody has yet started an anti-starting campaign, or if someone has it is a failure. I am sentimentally attached to Bradford's olfactory hallmark: the city-centre aroma of staling dung, at its most pungent in the very early morning or late at night.



Generating change: but the young preserve their identity

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ARTS

GALLERIES

Strokes of forgotten genius

Timely reappraisals of William Coldstream and other neglected painters, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

As the leaves fall, half-forgotten painters rise again. Autumn always seems to be the time for efforts of artistic resurrection, and this autumn an unusual variety is on offer. Describing William Coldstream as "half-forgotten" may seem odd, but in his latter years he tended to be honoured in vague and general terms, rather than actually viewed. The Tate Gallery's retrospective tribute, three years after his death, certainly corrects this, though whether to the painter's ultimate advantage it is hard to say.

Coldstream was part of that awkward class of artists who are equally famed as teachers and administrators. Enthusiasts tend to complain that their artistic achievements are comparatively neglected. Others wonder if a strong creative urge could be quite so readily sidetracked. Coldstream's case is peculiarly difficult to judge because he was not a prolific painter and he would possibly not have painted much more even if he had the time.

His importance as an influence, first as a leading light of the Euston Road school of urban realists, then as a teacher of distinguished pupils at Camberwell and in a long tenure as Slade professor, is not in dispute. But where does he stand, finally, as an artist in his own right?

The overall effect of the Tate show is oddly dreary. There are undoubtedly moments of wan poetry in the early urban landscapes, and on two memorable occasions the presence of snow to light up the dull suburban scene works wonders. In his war-art period in Italy a certain trick of leaving paintings to look like works in progress first emerges. One or two clearly are unfinished, but mostly this seems to be a refusal to pontificate in paint.

After the war there are walls full of rather bloodless, unimpersonated nudes, and a group of wilfully open-ended portraits of men of mark. It is all immaculately calculated, beautifully executed, and depressing. In person Coldstream had an engagingly dry humour and was ready to speak over as glum and self-effacing.

Even Solomon J. Solomon asserts himself with more dash and individuality. The show of his work at the Ben Uri Gallery seems to be the first since 1946 and might not raise high hopes in advance. All that anybody remembers about him these days is that he was a successful society portraitist in the shadow of Sargent, and that when not portraying the great and the good, he produced large and melodramatic Biblical and legendary scenes, such as Liverpool's bloodthirsty "Samson" of 1887. He encouraged a number of younger Jewish artists of his time (1860-1927), and was also important in the evolution of camouflage techniques.

The Ben Uri show, if not gleaming with originality, is a much more spirited affair than the Coldstream. Solomon enjoyed painting pretty women (often his own family) and imposing men: he really does convey a vivid impression of Asquith at the height of his power. The domestic interiors are crowded with social and artistic information, lovingly observed. The watercolours that he did for his own enjoyment are a fresh and pleasing addition to the English watercolour canon. And somehow there is something more lurking there: the savagery of some of the history pictures and the lushness of the mythical nudes hint at a private man even more



Reclining Figure (1980-81): one of several nudes on show in the Tate Gallery's exhibition of paintings by William Coldstream

interesting than the urbane public figure he chose to present. Nobody would call Marevna urbane or self-effacing. It seems particularly improbable that she spent her later years in suburban Ealing, and when one or two of the paintings in the retrospective at the Cooling Gallery allude to the location, the results are so dazzlingly transfigured that the place becomes sublimely irrelevant.

Mania Vorobievskaya, to give her full name, was born in Kazan in 1892, proved to be something of a juvenile prodigy and packed herself off to Italy at the age of 19, where she was dubbed Marevna ("daughter of the sea") by Maxim Gorky. Next stop Paris, where she was in the centre of a group that included Soutine, Modigliani, Zadkine, Lipschitz and, more dramatically for her, Diego Rivera. She lived with him for several years and he fathered her child, but when he returned to Mexico she stayed on and continued her career.

Given this heady company, she remained remarkably unimpressed in her art. Her style, consistently throughout her long career, is a curious mixture of Cubism and Pointillism: she segments her subjects as a good, not-too-rigorous Cubist should, but then fills in with iridescent patterns of coloured dots. Some of the interest resides undeniably in her records of the way life with the painters of La Ruche (the title of one of her autobiographical volumes) looked at the time: her thumbnail sketches are vividly funny. But as a painter with her own style and vision she remains unique and still underestimated.

Albert Heutheusen was born in Amsterdam and died in Denmark Hill. He lived all his adult life in England, and painted through most of it in extreme obscurity, earning a living primarily by teaching, when his health permitted. Everything began to change in 1961 when, at the age of 58, he was given his first one-man show by the Reid Gallery. His blazing visionary seascapes took the art world by storm: Sir John Rothenstein wrote a book about him; his work sold well and entered many public collections. Then, after his death in 1979,

nothing, a trust controlled all his work that was not in public or private collections, and it became virtually unseeable. Instant fame was followed by instant oblivion. Now, at last, the Mercury Gallery has put together what is publishing terms would be called a relaunch. The effect is stunning, and his drawings of the clown-faces which haunted him are splendid. But the hitherto unknown seascapes, ablaze with scarlets, oranges and golds, or whipped to a frenzy of poisonous-looking blues and greys, take the breath away. He emerges sublimely undated, and at a time when a selection of Emil Nolde's unforgettable late watercolours is on show at the Whitechapel Art

Gallery, there can be no higher praise than to say that Heutheusen (unconsciously) courts the comparison and emerges from it triumphantly undimmed.

The Paintings of William Coldstream 1908-1987. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat 10-5.30, Sun 2-5.30, until January 6.

VENICE PRESERVED: Venice has been a constant source of fascination for British and American painters. Visions of Venice contains amazing varieties of response, between Turner and Newson, Ruskin and Piper. Bankside Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, London SE1 (071-926 7521). Tues, 10am-9pm, Wed-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 1-5pm, until December 2.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES
LION LORE: The Lion of St Mark from Venice must be the most famous iguana puzzle in the world. Its date is still not entirely agreed... the British Museum reveals all. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm, until January 13.

SILVER AGE: The history of Italian silver in the 20th century embraces an infinite variety of styles, mostly represented in this short-lived show. Italian Trade Centre, 46 Piccadilly, London W1 (071-734 6419). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Sunday.

SUB-CONTINENTAL: The centuries in which the British Raj dominated India contained innumerable mutual misunderstandings. The Raj tells the story through numerous portraits, documents, furnishings and such. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071 306 0055). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until March 17.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

about the nearest British have come to one of those arts colonies which so enlivened the Continent in the early 20th century. Local survivors still keep up the great tradition of Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson, if not at the same level of achievement. Now there is a plan to make a centre for the study of St Ives art in the town itself.

THE National Theatre's mobile production of Moliere's *Tartuffe* altered the setting from Louis XIV's France to the court of his close contemporary, the Mogul Emperor, Aurangzeb. The cast is all Asian and the religious hypocrisy Tartuffe becomes a "faking fakir", a phrase fraught with hazard which the cast manage to get their tongues around without mishap. Jatinder Verma's energetically physical production, much praised, has been touring for much of the year but it must come to an end at Hackney Empire tomorrow (081-985 2424).

FOR a long time, the only cool critical stance when it came to Led Zeppelin was that of implacable disdain for its old-school power riff and macho posturing. A reappraisal of the band has been gathering momentum since the mid-Eighties when the influence of Zeppelin's awesome musical presence during the preceding decade began to make itself felt in fields as diverse as hip-hop and hardcore. But what has emerged most clearly in the fullness of time is the essential integrity of its music, something which was preserved even after the group's demise. Thanks to astute management and stringent quality control, its legacy has remained just as great as Zeppelin's (eight of them reached No 1) with no messy compilations or cheap-shot repackages to tarnish the purity of its reputation.

The silence is broken, but the tradition of excellence maintained by the snappily titled *Led Zeppelin*, a boxed set comprising 54 of the best tracks from the group's catalogue. It has been trailed by a condensed (double-CD/triple-LP) version entitled *Re-*

masters, at No 10 in the chart this week. For much of the early material, the enhanced sound quality is a mixed blessing. Previously unsuspected bass lines suddenly spring to life, for instance on "Tangerine", but there are still holes in some of the original mixes big enough to drive a bus through. What is most striking overall is the breadth of Zeppelin's musical portfolio. The band's sub-metal deconstructions of the blues - such as "Since I've Been Loving You" and the epic "I Can't Quit You Baby" - are among its best numbers. But in others, such as "Bron-Y-Aur Stomp", the group also took its acoustic side seriously, and it was the seamless combination of folk lyricism and heavy rock which provided its most ubiquitous anthem, "Stairway to Heaven". This anthology should finally lay to rest the ludicrous idea that Led Zeppelin was simply a raucous and-trousers heavy metal prototype.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Steve Coleman & Five Elements: Rhythm People (Novus PD83082). Jason Rebello: A Clearer View (Novus PD74805).

URBAN chaos, rage and violence: they are simmering in the work of the Brooklyn-based alto saxophonist Steve Coleman. All human life - or at least, the New York variety - is here. A player who gives his new album the sub-title "The Resurrection of Creative Black Civilisation" is not going to be interested in pretty ballads about young lovers. Whether Coleman's rhetoric amounts to a worthwhile alternative is still open to question. As on his previous JMT recordings, the packaging and the titles - *The Posse*, *Dangerous* and *Neutral Zone* - tend to be more expressive than the music itself.

The ten slabs of street funk offer little respite. Marvin "Smitty" Smith - probably better known as a pop drummer - is probably the star of the session, aided by Reggie Washington's prowling electric bass. Coleman continues

to sound like an icier version of his namesake, Ornette. He is clearly determined to drag jazz out of the conservatory and to take on the challenge from rap artists. If the lyrics on *No Conscience* are anything to go by, it may

not be a battle worth winning. "As we step into the 21st century of seductive syn-syn-cency technology we forget how to laugh."

Very true. However, perhaps it all sounds more persuasive blaring from a car stereo on a ride over the Brooklyn Bridge. At 19, the British pianist Jason Rebello is already a seasoned campaigner: McCoy Tyner and mid-Sixties Herbie Hancock seem to have been the dominant influences on him. For his debut as a leader, he has veered towards fusion. Wayne Shorter is the producer on *A Clearer View*. Bearing in mind his recent track record, that may not be a recommendation, but Rebello's compositions are crisp and unfussy. The outstanding moments occur whenever David O'Higgins steps forward for a tenor solo.

CLIVE DAVIS

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Part 52 of David Sinclair's sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mastered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be series, an act must have pasted on to index cards

downwardly mobile, latter-day beat-poet whose uniformly excellent recordings shine the spotlight on a host of odd, American lowlife characters. Tom Waits remains the ultimate cult hero. Backed by a nimble jazz quartet on the live *Nighthawks at the Diner* (1978), he established his persona of the boozy, disillusioned dervish, with a perpetual "party in his head", propping up the piano in some smoke-filled dive. By the time of *Heartattack and Vine* (1980) he had moved towards the more abrasive, electric R'n'B sounds of John Lee Hooker and Screamin' Jay Hawkins. From there he evolved the psycho-blues band which he has employed to devastating effect on his most distinguished work, *Swordfishtrombones* (1983), *Rain Dogs* (1985) and *Frank's Wild Years* (1987). A dramatically but yet perilously loose musical experience, this outstanding trilogy parades a cast of lost souls in often humorous narratives, barked out in Waits's ramshackle style.

Beat poet: Tom Waits

With his carefully moussed tangle of curls and preening stage presence, David Coverdale has been the undisputed cock of the Whitesnake roost since he convened the band in 1978. They quickly forged a hard-rocking reputation with *Ready to Rumble* (1980) and *Come and Get It* (1981), but so constantly has the personnel changed around Coverdale that since *Saints and Sinners* (1982), no line-up that has recorded a Whitesnake album has survived long enough to tour it. A second generation composite of the original macho-rock vocalists Paul Rodgers and Robert Plant, Coverdale successfully adapted the Seventies' blues-rock tradition to the Bon Jovi era with *White Snake* 1987, the album which eventually sold 8.5 million copies. By this time, thanks to Coverdale's constant headlining of "name" musicians, Whitesnake had become a virtual *Who's Who* of heavy rock, a process confirmed recently by the addition of guitarist Steve Vai to the ranks.

Beat poet: Tom Waits

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The bridge of thighs

NEWCASTLE'S famous Swing Bridge will do a turn of its own tomorrow as it kicks off Tyneside's first international dance festival. The bridge, which is the focus for the opening event of the Newcastle Dance '90 festival, provides the setting for a free open-air performance by local and international dancers and musicians playing old drums and industrial sirens.

During the performance, the Swing Bridge will turn through 270 degrees over the River Tyne: quite a pirouette, by bridge standards. The week-long festival features events at unusual public sites all over the city, as well as more conventional dance performances at the Newcastle Theatre Royal.

Sporting chance
TRADITIONAL panto now means a show with a television "name" in a minor role. This Christmas's special gimmick, however, appears to be TV sports persons. At the Bradford Alhambra, Ian Botham is to play the King in *Jack and the Beanstalk*: a "specially written part", which will presumably include references to the 1981 Headingley Test and other famous giant-killing acts.

Barry McGuigan will undoubtedly be a knock-out in the Lewisham Theatre, again playing his Oddjob in *Snow White*, the role he created at Reading last year. And Tessa Sanderson bends mind and sinew to the task of playing *Clint Friday* (no minor role, this) at Guildford. The only pity is that the panto season comes smack in the middle of the football season: which impresario would not seize the chance of casting Gazza as Prince Charming or, given the use of his famous rear-tucks, even one of the babes in the wood.

Cornish Tate?
WITH at least two generations of distinguished artist inhabitants to its credit, the Cornish seaside town of St Ives is

BRIEFING



Ian Botham: new giant-killing act

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about the nearest British have come to one of those arts colonies which so enlivened the Continent in the early 20th century. Local survivors still keep up the great tradition of Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson, if not at the same level of achievement. Now there is a plan to make a centre for the study of St Ives art in the town itself.

If all goes according to plan, the centre is expected to comprise another limb of the Tate Gallery, a dramatically situated new building (plans already approved), which will regularly show 40 or 50 relevant works from the Tate's main collection. The idea is timely; now, as usual, all that is missing is the money.

ALBUM REVIEWS: ROCK AND JAZZ

Deconstructivist blues and creative blacks

Led Zeppelin: Led Zeppelin (Atlantic 7557-82144-2)

FOR a long time, the only cool critical stance when it came to Led Zeppelin was that of implacable disdain for its old-school power riff and macho posturing. A reappraisal of the band has been gathering momentum since the mid-Eighties when the influence of Zeppelin's awesome musical presence during the preceding decade began to make itself felt in fields as diverse as hip-hop and hardcore. But what has emerged most clearly in the fullness of time is the essential integrity of its music, something which was preserved even after the group's demise. Thanks to astute management and stringent quality control, its legacy has remained just as great as Zeppelin's (eight of them reached No 1) with no messy compilations or cheap-shot repackages to tarnish the purity of its reputation.

The silence is broken, but the tradition of excellence maintained by the snappily titled *Led Zeppelin*, a boxed set comprising 54 of the best tracks from the group's catalogue. It has been trailed by a condensed (double-CD/triple-LP) version entitled *Re-*

masters, at No 10 in the chart this week. For much of the early material, the enhanced sound quality is a mixed blessing. Previously unsuspected bass lines suddenly spring to life, for instance on "Tangerine", but there are still holes in some of the original mixes big enough to drive a bus through. What is most striking overall is the breadth of Zeppelin's musical portfolio. The band's sub-metal deconstructions of the blues - such as "Since I've Been Loving You" and the epic "I Can't Quit You Baby" - are among its best numbers. But in others, such as "Bron-Y-Aur Stomp", the group also took its acoustic side seriously, and it was the seamless combination of folk lyricism and heavy rock which provided its most ubiquitous anthem, "Stairway to Heaven". This anthology should finally lay to rest the ludicrous idea that Led Zeppelin was simply a raucous and-trousers heavy metal prototype.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

LION LORE: The Lion of St Mark from Venice must be the most famous iguana puzzle in the world. Its date is still not entirely agreed... the British Museum reveals all. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm, until January 13.

SILVER AGE: The history of Italian silver in the 20th century embraces an infinite variety of styles, mostly represented in this short-lived show. Italian Trade Centre, 46 Piccadilly, London W1 (071-734 6419). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Sunday.

SUB-CONTINENTAL: The centuries in which the British Raj dominated India contained innumerable mutual misunderstandings. The Raj tells the story through numerous portraits, documents, furnishings and such. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071 306 0055). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until March 17.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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THEATRE
Bookends
Apollo

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JEREMY KINGSTON

RICHARD MORRISON

CINEMA GUIDE

TODAY'S EVENTS

Nicholas Hytner's engaging production, *When Susan Babbalanza* at Finsbury and Andrew Davis' *Die Fledermaus* at Regent.

English National Opera: *Così fan tutti*, 7.30pm
 Metropolitan Lane, London WC2E (071 3363161).

BARBIE RE DI SINGILIA: Michael Kennedy's production of Rossini's most popular operas returns with *Il signor Bruschino*, supported by Agnes Baltsa, in the role of Rosina, and Christopher Russell. Riccardo, singer the role of Don Basilio in the first time at Covent Garden. Gaetano Ferro conducts.

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NICHOLAS HYTNER'S engaging production, with Susan Bullock as Pamela and Andrew Shore as Proserpine, English National Opera, Coliseum St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071 836 3161), 7.30pm

L. BARSIE DI SIVIGLIA: Michael Tenopir's production of Rossini's most popular opera returns with fiery Greek-romantic soprano Agnes Baltsa in the role of Rosina. Tenor Pierluigi Ramondini sings the role of Don Basilio for the first time at Covent Garden. Gaetano Ferro conducts

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BUSINESS

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Jaguar
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BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-31
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MOTORING 33
YOUR OWN BUSINESS 35
SPORT 36-40

Tunnel rights terms today

By KAVIN EMMON
AND TIM JONES

EUROTUNNEL will reveal today the terms of its £530 million rights issue, which completes the £2.6 billion of extra funding needed to finish the project. Originally estimated to cost £4.8 billion, the cross-channel link will now require more than £7.5 billion to bring it into operation in 1993.

Fixing the price at which shareholders will be asked to buy more shares continued until late last night. The details will be accompanied by a new package of travel discounts and perks for shareholders.

Leigh rises 93%
Leigh Interests, the environmental services and waste disposal group, reported pre-tax profits up 93 per cent to £6.72 million for the half-year to end-September. The increase was in line with a forecast made in association with Leigh's £37.4 million agreed bid for H T Hughes, a fellow waste disposal operator, in September. Earnings rose 22 per cent to 8.9p a share. The company is recommending an interim dividend of 2.4p a share, 13 per cent up on last year's comparable payment after adjustment for the bonus share element of a £36 million rights issue earlier this year.

Tempus, page 27

DAKS down
DAKS Simpson, the clothing manufacturer and retailer, saw pre-tax profits for the year to end-July fall by 21 per cent to £4.16 million on sales up 9.26 per cent at £69.6 million. Earnings per share fell from 51.4p to 41.4p and the final dividend is 8.25p making 11.75p for the year, up from 10.95p.

Tempus, page 27

Payout held
Westbury, the housebuilder, reported profits down from £18.2 million to £5.1 million in the six months to end-August. But unit sales were slightly higher at 1,110 homes. Borrowings were contained and gearing was almost unchanged at 50 per cent. The interim dividend is held at 3.25p.

Tempus, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar	1.9525 (+0.0075)
German mark	2.9405 (-0.0061)
Exchange index	94.4 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share	1572.1 (-20.8)
FT-SE 100	2028.0 (-22.3)
New York Dow Jones	2457.18 (+14.85)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	24295.16 (-898.94)
Closing Prices ...	Page 29
Major indices and	major changes
Page 28	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	14%
3-month interbank	13 1/4-13 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	12 3/4-13 1/4%
US: Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	7 06 7/8%
30-year bonds	100 1/2-100 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1 9525	£ \$1 9525
£ DM 2.9405	£ DM 2.9405
£ Sfr 2.4848	£ Sfr 2.4848
£ FF 66.11	£ FF 66.11
£ Yen 254.32	£ Yen 254.32
£ Index 90.8	£ Index 90.8
ECU ED 65927	SDR ED 735430
ECU 1.46720	SDR 1.559748

GOLD

London Fixing:	AM \$380 10 PM \$380 40
close \$380 00-380 50	(£195.00-195.50)
New York:	Comex \$380 90-381 40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec)	\$34 70bbl (\$34.41)
* Denotes latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.57	2.41
Canada	1.05	0.95
Denmark	63.30	59.30
France	2.29	2.28
Germany	11.77	11.07
Finland	7.52	6.92
France	10.53	9.93
Germany	2.08	2.05
Grassie	217.00	217.00
Hong Kong	15.67	14.77
India	344	323
Italy	2286	2160
Japan	267.50	252.50
Netherlands	344	323
Norway	11.92	11.22
Portugal	270.25	254.25
South Africa	11.77	11.07
Spain	191.25	179.25
Sweden	11.38	10.74
Switzerland	8.81	8.17
Taiwan	57.00	52.00
Thailand	20.05	19.55
Yugoslavia	20.05	19.55

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.3 (September)

Slide in pound dashes hopes of early interest rate cut

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

HOPES of a further quick cut in interest rates virtually disappeared after sterling slid to its lowest levels against the mark since entry to the exchange-rate mechanism four weeks ago. The weak exchange rate in the face of a strong German currency has emerged as the main limiting factor on the Chancellor's ability to cut interest rates at a time of growing evidence of recession and a further sharp fall in the growth of the money supply.

The Treasury took the unusual step yesterday of issuing a statement to back up Wednesday's moves by the Bank of England to deter speculation on an immediate base rate cut after the Confederation of British Industry's gloomy quarterly economic survey. "It is obvious from the authorities' actions in the markets in recent days that they do not consider a fall in interest rates appropriate. As the Chancellor has said, interest rates will not be cut until it is safe to do so," the Treasury said. The statement initially countered overnight weakness in sterling after foreign exchange dealers decided that the Bank's message had applied only to one day. But sterling and share prices again fell sharply after the Bundesbank raised the Lombard rate, its emergency lending rate, by half a point to 8.5 per cent.

The Bundesbank, which operates three separate interest rates, said its action was not intended to raise money market rates in Germany, but only to correct a gap between the emergency lending rate and market rates. The more important repo rate was fixed at 8 per cent, indicating no upward movement. The move was widely interpreted, however, as an indication that the Bundesbank was moving to tighten monetary conditions, which would lead to higher interest rates, and the mark rose strongly against the dollar.

Sterling, though edging up against the dollar, was dragged down in the ERM and trades were made as low as DM2.9318 in the afternoon. The pound closed in London 0.6 pfmings lower at DM2.9405, its lowest closing level in the ERM. Share prices fell 1 per cent in London, less than on continental exchanges.

Further evidence of an economic slowdown emerged from the weekly money figures, which showed that growth in M0, the narrow measure of money supply, slowed from 4.6 per cent to about 3.8 per cent between September and October. Nigel Richardson of Warburg Securities said that the annual rate of growth of M0 over the past six months was now about 1 per cent.

Many in the City believe the Chancellor would like to cut interest rates further on the strength of lower money growth, which was cited as justification for the reduction in base rates to 13 per cent in the money markets, the three-month interest rates crept up to just above 13 1/2 per cent.

Roger Bootle of Midland Montagu said the Chancellor did not need any further evidence from the domestic economy to cut interest rates further, but that he would not want to do so until sterling was above its ERM central rate of DM 2.95. He said the Bundesbank's move removed fears of a substantive early rise in German interest rates. "UK rates are coming down comparatively soon," he added.

Gerrard Lyons of DKB International said: "There is strong pressure to ease American interest rates further, this is likely to lead to funds moving from dollars into marks, leaving sterling vulnerable."

Interest rate cuts of between 0.5 and 1.5 points are still expected before the end of the year by most commentators.

● The price of Brent crude for December closed 34 cents higher at \$34.75 on the International Petroleum Exchange after touching \$35.18, but trading was slack.

Stock markets, page 28

Polly Peck jobs cut as Nadir wins legal fight

By MATTHEW BOND

ASIL Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck International, has won a significant victory in his battle with the Serious Fraud Office, whose actions he alleges contributed to the collapse of his company. His victory came as the administrators who now run the company made half its headquarters staff redundant.

In the High Court, Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Morland granted Mr Nadir leave to seek a judicial review of the SFO's refusal to tell him what alleged offences it is investigating and what evidence it has of such wrong doing. Mr Nadir was questioned for three hours by the fraud office on September 20, the day Polly Peck's shares were suspended at 108p, after falling 155p.

The legal victory comes two days after the fraud office raided the Mayfair headquarters of Polly Peck, a move that prompted an angry statement from Mr Nadir. In the statement, Mr Nadir said that at the end of the September 20 interview neither he nor his lawyers were any the wiser about the actual transactions or series of transactions that concerned the fraud office.

The administrators changed with running Polly Peck by the High Court made 70 of 140 headquarters staff redundant after full consultation with the executive directors, including Mr Nadir. A spokeswoman for

Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte said that the administrators had made the redundancies with regret, but added that they saw no need for further job losses at headquarters. The administrators are not aware of any redundancies being planned at Polly Peck subsidiaries.

Mr Nadir too regretted the redundancies. "It is a sad day to see 70 dedicated people leave the company, who were part of the team that created the best performing share of 1980-90." But he was encouraged by his courtroom victory. "I think there is some justice in this country."

Mr Nadir said he was expecting to visit northern Cyprus soon: "I will be going again, hopefully before long and trying to be helpful." He believes that the hostility being displayed by the government of northern Cyprus will diminish, as the administrators explain their plan to restructure the company.

In the meantime he says he is offering the administrators as much help as possible.

In Turkey, Richard Stone, a Coopers partner and one of the three administrators, began his investigation of Polly Peck's Turkish businesses, principally Vestel Electronics and Meyna, the food distributor. Mr Stone's visit was overshadowed by the comments of President Turgut Ozal of Turkey, contradicting Turkey's previously conciliatory line. Mr Ozal told Turkish-Cypriot journalists:

"I can definitely say that nothing will happen to Asil Nadir's investments in Turkey and the Turkish Republic of northern Cyprus."

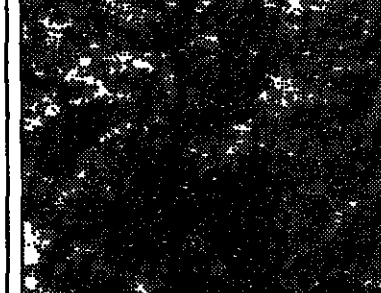
At the judicial review, Mr Nadir's lawyers will argue that the fraud office has a duty of fairness to provide him with information that will enable Mr Nadir to answer its questions properly. The fraud office rejects that.

Giving leave, Lord Justice Taylor said it was arguable that the law that obliged a person to answer questions put by the fraud office might also impose some other duty on the SFO itself. He added that the court had come to the conclusion "without giving any undue grounds for optimism" that Mr Nadir would win the review.

The judicial review will be an important test of the way the fraud office conducts its activities. Under the 1987 Criminal Justice Act, people assisting police with fraud enquiries do not have the right to remain silent. What Mr Nadir's lawyers are suggesting is that, therefore, neither does the SFO.

Following the court's decision, the fraud office said it recognised the importance of the review. "The SFO welcomes this opportunity to clarify the point at issue."

Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Morland recommended the case be heard as quickly as possible. The fraud office's application for 21 days to prepare its case was granted.



All or nothing: James White, who resigned rather than just be chief executive of Bunzl under a new chairman

White forced to quit at Bunzl

By MARTIN BARROW

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders have forced the resignation of James White as chairman and chief executive of Bunzl after pressurising him to the dual role to be split.

Mr White and two other directors associated with his ten-year tenure at the company resigned yesterday after four days of talks. He has combined the two senior posts since 1988, and is believed to have declined the chief executive job, refusing to work under a new non-executive chairman. He is not expected to receive compensation.

David Kendall, a non-executive director since 1988, has been appointed non-executive chairman at Bunzl. He is currently deputy chairman of British Coal and is also on the board of STC.

Donald Lattimer, finance director, said: "Jim agreed we should split the roles, but he did not want a new chairman over him. His departure has been amicable and he has agreed to assist the new chairman for six months."

The two other directors who have resigned are Brian Ford, managing director of service and distribution, and Paul Lorenzini who will temporarily remain as president of Bunzl Distribution in America. Terry Simpson, who was also managing director, left three months ago.

Mr White joined Bunzl, which has interests in paper distribution and specialist manufacturing, in 1980 as managing director and is closely associated with the aggressive acquisitive strategy throughout most of the past decade. But two years ago, Bunzl decided to refocus on core businesses and shed operations that it considered did not fit its new strategy.

The change of strategy has had limited success, with the downturn in economy making it difficult for Bunzl to complete disposals at prices which were considered necessary to reduce borrowings incurred during the spending spree.

In 1989, pre-tax profits fell 30 per cent to £65.4 million on sales 6 per cent lower at £1.64 billion and this year prospects are not bright. Last month, Bunzl returned interim profits 25 per cent lower at £30 million and maintained the dividend at 2.6p a share. The shares fell 3p to 57p.

Comment, page 27

Privatisation plans for power 'a fraud'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government was effectively accused of fraud by the Labour party over its planned privatisation of the electricity distribution companies to be launched today.

Labour made its attack on the government's electricity privatisation on the eve of today's launch of the Pathfinder prospectus for the distribution companies.

Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman, disclosed for the first time detailed area-by-area projections of the loss on the transaction of each distribution company.

He said that overall the 12 regional electricity companies were to be sold off at less than a third of their real value. Last year, their assets stood at £11.3 billion, and those of the National Grid Company at £4.8 billion.

But these total assets of more than £16.1 billion were expected by the City to be sold for about £5 billion, a loss of more than £11 billion.

Mr Dobson said the large-scale assets had been built up at the expense of electricity consumers, and now "this buxfer government is to knock them down at a fraction of their real value. If anyone else other than the government were doing it, the fraud squad would be called in."

The Pathfinder is expected to contain profit forecasts totalling between £810 million and £820 million before tax for the 12 companies in the current year to end-March, drawn up on the basis that the £2.9 billion of debt injected during the summer was in place throughout the year.

The government's advisers are today likely to make great play of the fact that more than 5 million people have now registered an interest in buying the shares.

DTI seeks German help on LUI probe

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MUNICH Re, Germany's largest reinsurance group, will be asked to help the Department of Trade and Industry enquiry into London United Investments, the collapsed insurance group.

LUI's administrators are suing three former directors and a Liechtenstein trust to recover commissions of up to \$100 million allegedly paid by the group on reinsurance contracts with Munich Re.

The DTI enquiry will focus on the role of Protega Agentur Anstalt, a Liechtenstein trust, into which the directors secretly paid a \$300,000 dividend from an unknown LUI subsidiary in America.

A writ has been issued against Ronnie Driver and Peter Wilson, LUI's former chairman and chief executive, and Henry Weavers, a one-time director. This is to recover commissions allegedly paid when HS Weavers, LUI's underwriting agency subsidiary, reinsured with Munich Re between 1976 and last year.

Protega Agentur was previously used by the three directors to deposit a \$300,000 dividend from Russell Reinsurance, according to Robert Schloerb, their US lawyer, in evidence to a congressional sub-committee investigation. Russell Re was set up by the three in 1977 and traded with LUI, although the director did not reveal their interest until last year.

In 1986, Mr Schloerb was asked to transmit the funds to Mr Smith in Liechtenstein to be placed in the trust. Three years later, the funds were returned when Mr Driver and his associates revealed their stake in Russell and gave it to LUI, along with the \$300,000 dividend.

Comment, page 27

Japanese bank balance upset

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

WORRIES about Japan's fraying economic health, and its impact on world financial markets, has swelled after three of Japan's biggest banks drastically cut their profits forecasts for the current financial year.

News of the gloomier outlook, which followed a spate of embarrassing scandals involving leading Japanese banks and a dramatic fall in profits of Japan's top stockbrokers, helped to pull the rug from under Japanese stock prices yesterday, sliding nearly 900 points off the Nikkei share index.

Sauwa Bank shrank its profit forecast for the year to March 31, 1991, from 160 billion yen (£628 million) to ¥130 billion. The bank blamed a squeeze on net interest spreads caused by the jump in market and other interest rates and lower earnings from its shareholdings

because of the slump in Tokyo share prices. Fuji Bank cut its forecast profits by one third to ¥100 billion, and Dai-ichi Kangyo, the world's biggest bank, clipped its expectations by 30.3 per cent to ¥115 billion.

The grim forecasts are the latest of many problems for Japan's banking community. Taizo Hashida, chairman of the Japanese Federation of Banks Associations, has given warning this week that Japanese banks and their customers face the threat of a credit squeeze. Mr Hashida, the chairman of Fuji Bank, also urged bankers in Japan to steer clear of controversy and trouble by not lending money to stock and property market speculators.

Last month, New Japan Securities, a large stockbroker partly owned by the Industrial Bank of Japan, said Japan's dozen biggest commercial banks needed to raise ¥5,000 billion to cure their capital shortfall after the collapse in Tokyo share values. If they failed, a report by the broker added, they would have to cut their loan books by 16 per cent more than their entire overseas lending in the past six years.

A week ago Japan's big four securities houses, Nomura, Nikko, Daiwa and Yamaichi, reported average drops in net profits of 60.13 per cent for the six months to September 30. Again the Tokyo stock market's dramatic fall this year was blamed.

Yesterday's unsettling news from the Japanese banking community, combined with a sharp fall in the yen and heightened anxiety about the possibility of war in the Middle East, sent Tokyo stock prices plunging. The Nikkei closed 898.94 points lower at 24,295.16, the dollar leapt ¥1.35 to end at ¥130.70.

Markets, page 28

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GEC in £200m US contract for computers

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Electric Company of Britain has won a contract, potentially worth more than £200 million, to supply primary flight computers for the Boeing 777. The 777, which was launched this week by Boeing, the world's biggest aircraft-maker, will be its first to adopt fly-by-wire technology, which does away with mechanical linkages between cockpit and control surfaces. GEC has never before won a contract to supply the main flight computers on a fly-by-wire civil airliner.

The Boeing contract is regarded by GEC as an important breakthrough. The computers will be built by GEC Avionics at Rochester, Kent, where 6,000 are employed. The 777, a long-range twin jet, is being launched on the back of orders for up to 68 placed by American Airlines.

American placed orders this week for 34 777s and took options on as many again as part of a record \$22 billion order for Boeing planes. Developing the twin-engine 360-390 seat jet is expected to cost Boeing \$4-5 billion.

GEC said that part of the development work on the flight computer had already been completed. It was not clear how the rest of the development costs would be

split. Fly-by-wire systems are claimed to improve aircraft performance through speedier response while reducing maintenance and operating costs. They were pioneered in military aircraft.

Two high-technology aircraft series made by Boeing's European rival, Airbus Industrie, are already flying.

GEC's experience in fly-by-wire technology was acquired in so-called secondary systems, the remote units which control moving surfaces on the wings and tailplane.

It has also been involved in flight computers for the Tornado fighter-bomber and has a leading role in the European Fighter Aircraft project.

If the Boeing 777 contract is a success, GEC stands to become a leading company in the civil market. As airlines come under growing pressure to invest in more fuel-efficient aircraft, Airbus will be offering A330 and A340 aircraft in competition with Boeing's 777 and models from McDonnell Douglas.

Boeing hopes to win further key orders for the 777 from United Airlines, All Nippon Airways and from British Airways, which is expected to order \$4 billion of planes this year from as-yet unnamed companies.

Clegg comeback on cards



Looking to make a return: former Mountleigh chairman Tony Clegg yesterday

TONY Clegg, the former chairman of Mountleigh, is planning a return to the British property market.

The question he cannot answer is when (Matthew Bond writes).

In a week's time it will be a year since Mr Clegg sold his 22.6 per cent stake in Mountleigh to Nelson Peltz and Peter May for £70 million. That anniversary is significant for Mr Clegg. "I felt I should stay out of the domestic market for 12 months at a minimum, but at the right moment I think I would be very interested in coming back into British property," he said.

Mr Clegg was talking after addressing 200 of Essex's more progressive farmers at a seminar organised by Savills,

the quoted property agent. Although he admitted his personal agricultural expertise was limited to a 40-acre farm in Yorkshire "and a few shaggy cattle", Mountleigh was a big investor in agricultural land during his stewardship.

But when he does return to British property he will concentrate, he says, on what he knows best, commercial property. Mr Clegg is already back in his Mayfair stamping ground, working a four-day week for E&F Securities, his private property company, and on charity projects.

He is the first to admit that the golden days of the commercial property market are over and he believes commercial property will take

longer than residential to recover from its present depths.

"It is not really a dealer's market at the moment," he says, with characteristic understatement. But there are, he says, still deals to be done. "I have had a lot of things put to me over the last 12 months." As a result his private property company already has investments in America and France.

While next week's anniversary is important for Mr Clegg, it could also be important for Mountleigh shareholders. Mr Peltz and Mr May will then be free to buy more shares in the company. With Mountleigh shares at 56p, compared with the 200p they paid for their initial stake, it will be interesting to see what they do.

North West Water buys three firms

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

NORTH West Water Group is paying £51 million for water treatment engineering companies in Britain, America and Ireland to augment its engineering resources and form a base for international expansion.

Dennis Grove, the chairman, said the move was "careful and selective" and stressed that North West was expanding from its existing expertise.

Britain's second biggest privatised water services group is paying \$75 million to buy Envirex, the water treatment division of Banner Industries, the American group, and up to £12.5 million (£12.5 million) for two water engineering companies owned by Jones Group, the Irish conglomerate. All three companies have strong positions in waste water treatment.

Water Engineering, the only one based in Britain, designs, makes and installs waste water plants and numbers North West's core water business among its customers. North West expects technical contributions from the others to strengthen design and engineering capacity for its investment programme.

Envirex made an operating profit for the year to end-June of \$10.6 million on turnover of \$100 million. Water Engineering and Jones Environmental, which operates in Ireland, had combined operating profits of £450,000 and turnover of £13.2 million in 1989.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Howden profit fears over supply dispute

HOWDEN Group, the Scottish engineer, has given a warning that its profits for the year to the end of April 1991 will be "very severely affected" by a contractual dispute involving the supply of four tunnelling machines to MT Group. Howden said that the dispute between the two groups, which relates to cost overruns on the contract, will probably be referred to arbitration "which could take up to two years".

The delays and extra costs in completing the contract have resulted in higher than expected borrowings, though Howden forecasts that year-end debt should not be significantly higher than that at the previous year-end.

BDA doubles interim losses

BDA Holdings, the property developer and consultancy, has announced more than doubled interim pre-tax losses of £1.6 million for the six months to end-July compared with £755,000 for the same period last year. The figure reflected losses on sales, and a revaluation of site values and residential property sale prices. The company will not be paying an interim dividend.

Profits ahead 50% at Lofs

DESPITE turbulent markets, London & Overseas Freighters, the British tanker company controlled by the Greek Kalukundis family, reports pre-tax profits up 50 per cent to \$1.11 million for the half year to end-September. The rise resulted from improved trading and reduced interest costs. Earnings per share rose from 5.94 to 8.68 cents. As usual, there is no interim dividend.

Rank sells associate

RANK Organisation's 49 per cent-owned associate Rank Xerox, has sold its businesses in Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore to Fuji Xerox, its 50 per cent-owned Japanese associate, for £135 million. The British parent will receive £48.5 million cash because it is entitled to only a third of the joint venture's earnings.

The businesses being sold contributed £4.4 million of post-tax earnings in the last financial year, suggesting an exit multiple on the deal of 11 times earnings, said Michael Gifford, Rank's chief executive.

Brewer falls at half time

BURTONWOOD Brewery, of Cheshire, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £2.62 million to £2.38 million in the six months to end-September on turnover 15 per cent higher at £22.98 million. The interim dividend stays at 0.7p a share, payable from earnings up from 8.1p to 8.5p a share as a result of a reduced tax charge. Property profits rose from £650,000 to £860,000.

J Smart rises to £3.76m

Pre-tax profits at J Smart & Co (Contractors), the Edinburgh building and public works contractor to property group, advanced from £3.14 million to £3.76 million in the year to end-July. Earnings per share rose from 20.74p to 24.58p. The final dividend is raised to 5.25p (4.65p), making an improved total of 7.2p (6.4p) for the year. The shares firmed 2p to 158p.

Barclays deputy retires

BARCLAYS Bank has confirmed that Peter Leslie, one of its two deputy chairmen, will retire in March, after 36 years at the bank. He is not being replaced. Mr Leslie, aged 59, became the first chief general manager after Barclays and Barclays International merged in 1985. He held the post for three years.

After Mr Leslie's retirement, Sir Martin Jacobson will be Barclays' sole deputy chairman as part of the divisional reorganisation announced on Wednesday. He will also head the bank's new markets and investment banking division.

Dewhirst to close factory

By PHILIP FANGALOS

DEWHIRST Group, the manufacturer of clothing, is another casualty of the decline of the textile industry and is to close its County Durham factory, at a cost of 83 jobs.

The company said it has been forced to close its plant in Willington because of "difficult trading conditions".

Dewhirst recently said 55 people from the plant would be made redundant in the women's wear production department and talks were in progress with a potential buyer for the rest of the plant.

However, the talks have fallen through and Dewhirst has decided on the closure of the plant.

The group recently announced a sharp decline in first-half profits, down from £2.81 million to £781,000.

However, the company stressed that order books in other areas of its business remain strong and the group's remaining 5,000 employees are not affected by the situation in Willington.

Dewhirst said this was recently emphasised by an £8 million contract with British Airways to supply staff uniforms. The deal involves a three-year contract to supply 30,000 BA staff worldwide with uniforms for flying and ground staff. The shares held steady at 23½p.

Sock Shop assets sale

THE administrators of Sock Shop International, Sophie Mirman's failed business, are likely to stay on until Christmas in order to dispose of peripheral assets and ensure a smooth handover of the business to the management team, headed by Juan Olaso, which has bought the bulk of the company for £3.25 million.

The Sock Shop creditors, who are owed about £17 million, have been told that they are unlikely to recover any of the money.

Sock Shop International will now be called SSI Realisations. The business that has been bought by Mr Olaso, is called Sock Shop Holdings.

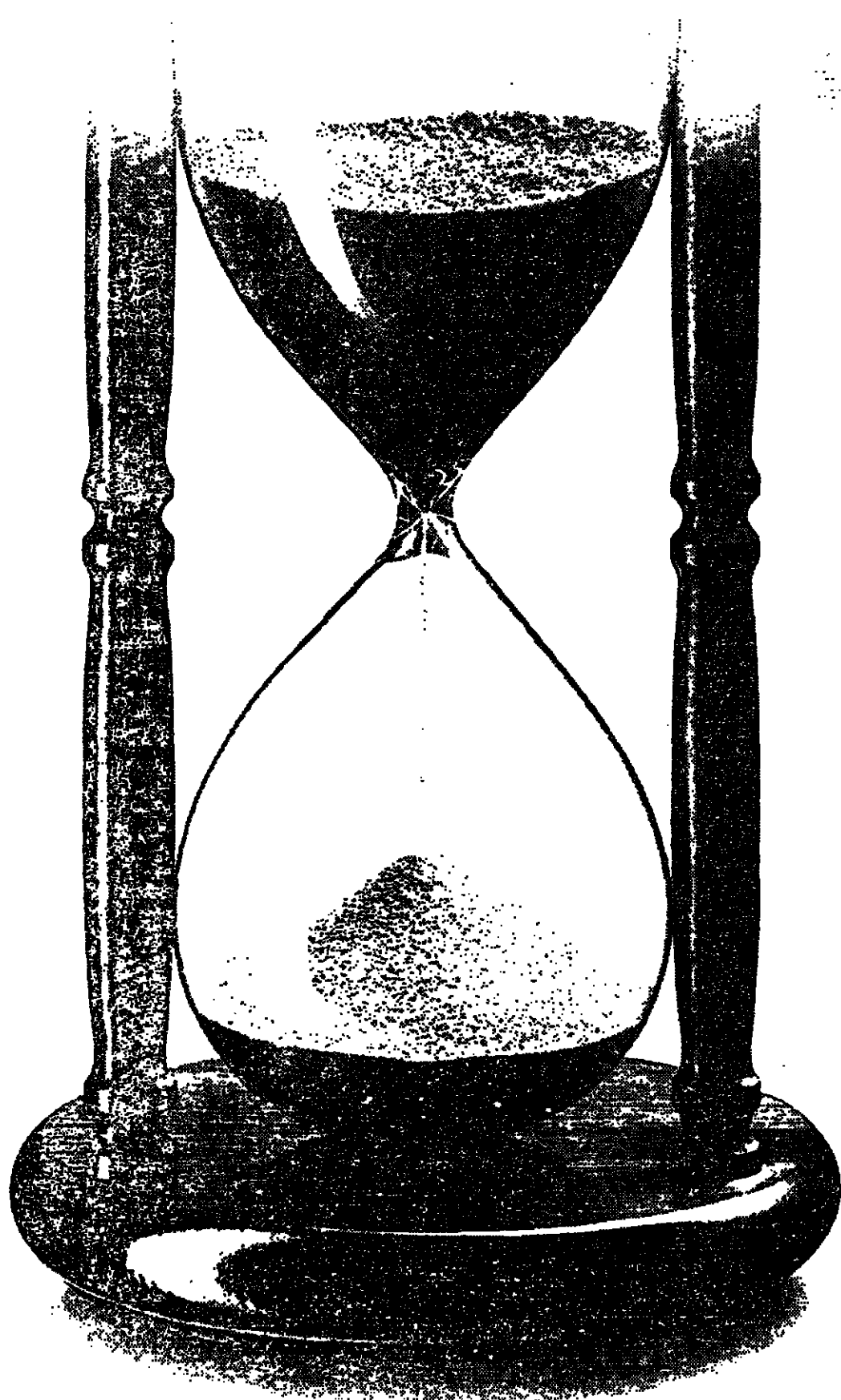
The administrators were appointed last February when dealings in the company's shares were suspended on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Kalamazoo back in the black

KALAMAZOO, the office stationery to business systems group, is back in the black after bringing costs under control and disposing of loss-making businesses.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £1.07 million in the year to end-July, compared with a loss of £4.08 million last time. Earnings per share stood at 2.2p (nil), and the company is recommending a dividend of 1p for the year, compared with none last time. The shares rose 2½p to 21½p.

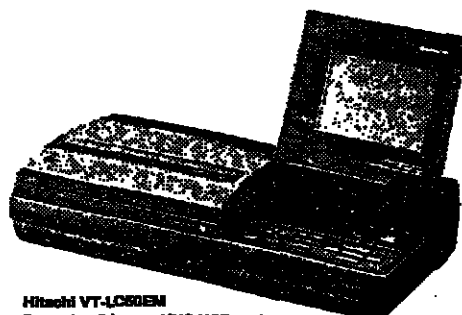
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2nd November, 1990

LUI warnings the DTI missed

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Anyone who was anyone in the London insurance market knew something was odd about HS Weavers, London United Investment's underwriting agency. It dominated the American liability insurance market, not through any skill, but because it would offer premiums which undercut anything offered by more reputable underwriters. Throughout the years that this went on, the trade and industry department sat by, blinking at the annual returns, but apparently doing little.

We now know that HS Weavers did not possess any special magic which enabled it to undercut everybody in sight. It was simply writing for cashflow, and it appears that some of the cash was flowing to places where it had no business. As the incidence of claims from asbestosis and environmental pollution rose, it was inevitable the cracks in the claims reserves would appear. By the time the cracks were investigated, they were chasms.

But in January 1989, Marsh & McLennan, the American insurer, wrote to clients warning that

claims reserves at Kingscroft and Lime Street, two LUI subsidiaries, were below the DTI's minimum margin. This was a warning that M&M would do business with Weavers only if a client expressly demanded it do so. Otherwise it would choose a safer, but more expensive, underwriter.

M&M gleaned its information from publicly available insurance returns sent by the companies to the DTI. They rang the alarms for M&M, but not, apparently, for the DTI itself.

When the DTI did order an actuarial review of LUI in '89, it concentrated on Walbrook, where reserves were still adequate, not the spivvy operations which were falling apart. Walbrook was asked to stop taking on new business. Finally, this year, the DTI ordered a full actuarial report and almost instantly "discovered" the problem. But it has taken an administration order, and a

sharp-eyed accountant to discover how rotten the whole group was.

Peter Lilley, the fresh face at the DTI, has slammed the stable door, but the time for an investigation was 1989, not 1990. It all adds grist to the mill which is grinding out the message that the DTI is neither staffed nor equipped properly to regulate the insurance business. Mr Lilley's next step must be to examine the alternatives.

Dealt out

The sudden departure of James White from Bunzl highlights the less than satisfactory state of affairs when

the chairman and chief executive of a large public company are one and the same.

In bull markets, such concentration of power rarely causes problems. But in harsher times it means that shareholders can be faced with the impossible task of finding a sympathetic and independent ear when they wish to air legitimate worries over the day-to-day management of a company's affairs.

For Mr White, once a darling of the City for his aggressive dealmaking, it must have been especially painful to realise that his former admirers were baying for change.

There is no doubt however that there were ample grounds for dissatisfaction. Bunzl's profits

peaked in 1988 at £93 million. Last year they slid to £65 million and were expected to fall further, to perhaps £55 million in the current year. The share price has crashed in the past couple of years from 170p to a closing 37p last night.

From the start of 1986 to the spring of 1988, Mr White cranked out a series of rapid acquisitions. A total of £340 million was spent on more than 50 purchases.

His critics say that the spending spree, which initially appeared to benefit Bunzl, owed more to the cosmetics of acquisition accounting than to sound strategy. They cite the takeover of United Parcels, where Mr White once had a senior management role, as the most glaring example of error. Bought at the top of the cycle in an industry with low barriers to entry, it never fulfilled its promise. During 1988 and last

year, the dealmaker went into reverse, raising £60 million in the first 12 months and unveiling a programme to realise £150 million during the second.

But even after Bunzl was pared back to its core operations, a number of institutional investors were concerned that there was little to prevent the chairman and chief executive from doing deals rather than the bread and butter activity of running the business. This led to an old-fashioned boardroom bust-up with Mr White unwilling to suffer the indignity of seeing his dual role split through the appointment of a new chairman.

Shareholders should take some comfort from the fact that this appears to be an end of the matter. There are apparently no damaging disclosures of hitherto unknown financial disasters to come.

But for the City at large, the Bunzl affair will rekindle the debate between those, like Sir Owen Green, who view non-executive directors with disfavour and the majority who favour failsafe checks and balances inside boardrooms.

TEMPUS

Westbury builds fortress

DESPITE the worst housing slump since the war, Westbury is a share to back. Like most of its rivals, the company has seen profits caught in a pincer movement by falling demand and high interest rates. But Westbury is among the select band which has managed to preserve its collective balance sheet, maintain a long (but not over-valued) land bank and keep its sales and production teams intact. Throw in the added attraction of a heavy exposure to the first-time buyer market, and Westbury begins to stand out from the crowd.

To some extent investors have already recognised this. The shares have risen strongly relative to the market since the start of 1990, moving from an April low point of 128p to close at 177p yesterday, down 3p on the day. The six months to end-August brought the worst trading conditions the company has experienced, with profits crashing from £18.2 million last year to just £5.1 million. But that was due to a conscious decision to go hard for volume and let margins take the strain.

Slightly more than 1,100 new homes were sold in the first half of this year and last. But selling prices could not be held. They averaged £71,700, against £81,500 last time, the fall being a combination of market weakness, incentives to buyers of roughly £3,500 per unit, and a change in the sales mix towards smaller homes.

While operating margins shrank from 23 per cent to just 10.6 per cent, the maintained volume kept borrowings, which were £53.7 million at the half-year end against £52.3 million, under tight control. Gearing was almost unchanged at 50 per cent.

Westbury has a land bank of 7,200 plots with planning consent, and a further 6,400 under option. In the full year completions should be up on 1989's 2,200, and profits of £10 million are likely, against

£28 million. The prospective price/earnings ratio is up to 13.

Leigh Interests

LEIGH Interests has begun the process of swallowing HT Hughes, its erstwhile quoted rival in the waste disposal sector, confident that indignation will not result. The City, however, has put the bi-carbonate of soda on stand-by, just in case, and the company's shares languish at 258p, compared with 351p in August.

The rating probably reflects investors' disenchantment with the sector, rather than with the company. The Severn Trent/Caird debacle focused minds on the risks attached to waste disposal and landfill and removed much of the green premium the sector once enjoyed.

Leigh derives 50 per cent of revenues from the treatment of liquid waste which carries a higher risk than landfill. Its previous rating owed as much to its perceived vulnerability to a takeover bid — Caird, ironically, was linked with Leigh in better days — as to its respectable financial performance. The enlarged Leigh is less vulnerable and the bid premium has vanished.

Pre-tax profits up 93 per cent to £6.72 million for the half-year to end-September and earnings 22 per cent ahead to 8.9p a share were in line with the company's own forecast after the all-shares bid for Hughes, which in turn matched earlier City expectations.

Almost half the increase in profits was attributed to acquisitions, chiefly Clay Colliery, which was bought late last year for £17 million. Despite the corporate activity, Leigh still has about £15 million in the bank left over from February's rights issue.

With pre-tax profits of £15

million in prospect this year, the shares trade on a prospective multiple of less than 15 and look oversold.

DAKS Simpson

DAKS Simpson, the clothing manufacturer, has come a long way since it invented men's self-supporting trousers.

Its balance sheet is strong, and even in a difficult trading period, it can still see light at the end of the tunnel. The 7.3 per cent hike in the dividend in the face of a profits downturn is a tangible demonstration of this.

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-July fell by 21 per cent to £4.16 million on sales up 9.26 per cent at £69.6 million. Earnings fell from 51.4p to 41.4p and the final dividend is 8.25p, making 11.75p (10.95p). There is an extraordinary debit of £1.22 million, made up of the closure costs of the Nottingham factory and the termination of an American licensing agreement which, in the long run, could prove an extremely profitable move. In addition to manufacturing for its own label and Marks and Spencer, the group owns Simpsons of Piccadilly, the London department store.

The non-voting A shares, down 10p at 325p, are now trading at 35p below their net asset value and are at their low point for the year, having been as high as 500p. The voting stock, controlled by the Simpson family, continues to improve and is trading at a high of 1,950p.

Assuming no improvement in pre-tax profits this year, the A shares are trading on a p/e ratio of 6.3. Given the price recently paid by the Japanese for DAKS rival, Aquascutum, the shares do not look overvalued, but investors should think hard before buying a share which gives them no vote and no say in the future.

BT chief criticises EC market

lain Vallance, chairman of British Telecom, yesterday accused the European Commission of moving too slowly to liberalise telecommunications.

At a conference in London on the government's forthcoming telecommunications duopoly policy review, Mr Vallance said it was vital other countries offered at least similar regulatory and policy environments to allow BT to compete fairly.

He said no European country had followed the UK's lead in breaking the network infrastructure and telephone monopolies of mainly state-owned concerns. A failure within the EC to open up a liberalised, pan-European, telecommunications market was particularly threatening to BT, as its domestic market faced "major competition from very serious world players".

He singled out the Cable TV Association, whose members are dominated by US telecom and media interests, for special criticism. Instead of being completely free to enter the US telecommunication markets, significant restrictions operated. These excluded foreign firms from controlling or owning a US company with a common carrier radio licence to provide services such as cellular telephony, mobile radio and telepoint. Restrictions also banned companies such as BT from owning or controlling US companies with TV broadcast licences.

He said the government's review of the BT/Mercury duopoly should be mindful of these US restrictions, and that overseas companies competing for a slice of the UK market "operate from a secure base in protected home markets. They need no feather-bedding of any kind".

NICK NUTTALL
Technology Correspondent

Double-check trouble for twin suitors of Skoda cars



Radical turn: Vaclav Klaus, voucher scheme proponent

THE battle between Volkswagen and Renault/Volvo for Skoda, the Czech car maker, highlights the difficult issues dominating economic reform in East Europe.

The Czechoslovaks are flattered at being vigorously courted and lobbied by three of Europe's most famous companies, but it is evident that the country and its institutions are not yet ready.

Like Germany, Czechoslovakia is a fiercely federal country, where many economic decisions are taken at the level of the republics. But, unlike in Germany, the issue of subsidiarity — the division of responsibilities between the state and federal authorities — has not been decided. For this reason, to win approval both bidders had to go through a plethora of Czechoslovak national and federal ministries, in addition to securing the support of the company's management.

This complexity explains why the decision over the future of Skoda has taken so many months, and will not be officially announced probably until later this month.

It is this background of political stalemate and infighting within the various governments, that the radical economic reform programme, proposed by Vaclav Klaus, the federal finance minister, has to be judged.

His proposal of privatisation, which goes far beyond anything that has ever been witnessed in Britain or elsewhere, is for a quick wholesale transfer of state-owned assets into the private sector. This is to be achieved by means of vouchers, or investment money, which will be allocated free to every man, woman and child in the country. They will not be sold because the savings levels are insufficient.

The vouchers, which carry no value, can then be transferred into shares. The mechanism of this transfer has not been decided yet, but essentially it works on the basis that the number of shares which each voucher, or its attached coupons, can buy is determined by simple supply and demand mechanisms.

The greater the demand for shares in a company, the fewer

shares each voucher, or coupon, can command, and vice versa.

The point of this radical approach, whose technicalities are not really understood, even by European investment bankers, is merely a transfer of ownership. It is not, as Mr Klaus has frequently said, about the establishment of an efficient market in shares. "It will be very imperfect, we know this, but it does not matter," he said. Until the moment the shares are listed on a stock exchange, none of

the transactions will have any value attached to them. Mr Klaus's radicalism has come under attack from many sides, not least by Western economists, who tend to interpret his programme as right-wing radicalism. It is likely his scheme will be adopted by MPs, perhaps on modified terms, but essentially intact.

As long as the state owns the companies, the various decision-making quagmires, which the western car companies had to deal with, will continue to obstruct the process. While

Volkswagen and Renault might be capable and patient enough to put up with some of these East European anachronisms, smaller investors are likely to be frustrated at an early stage in the process.

The voucher system is also likely to create some confusion in the City of London, where firms are competing to offer advice to the various ministries and companies involved.

Czech officials already have let it be known that they believe the quality of advice they have received from some of the companies involved, is below par, and in some cases incompetent, as a plethora of City firms jumps on the East Europe bandwagon. These include merchant and investment banks, accountants and auditors, business consultancies, and specialist smaller firms.

The irony in the case of Mr Klaus's vouchers is that its one-stop approach is in need of line advice, particularly since Mr Klaus has a clear idea of how to proceed. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which will become operational next year, has already said it will not compete with City firms, although it will play a role of advising governments on whom to appoint as advisers.

There can be no doubt that Czechoslovakia is embarking on one of the most daring economic experiments of all time, probably even more so than the takeover of East Germany by West Germany. But there is an increasing realisation, even among politicians who prefer a more cautious approach, that the voucher system is without alternative.

The country is on the brink of a severe energy shortfall, while economic growth in much of the rest of the world slows and with it the West's generosity towards East Europe's struggling economies. For all its imperfections, the voucher system, in its most radical format, is superior to most schemes on offer by Western advisers.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
Prague

Volkswagen backed, page 31

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Wild team powers ahead

WILF Wild, the specialist utilities salesman who has been known to sport a red rose in his button hole at election time, is about to change jobs for the sixth time in seven years. Wild, whose previous posts of call have included Wood Mackenzie and Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, has resigned from Laing & Cruckshank to join Smith New Court. Due to start on November 12, he will be working with analysts Alistair Buchanan, who specialises in electricity stocks, and Stephen Doe, a water company expert.

"It means that we will be the only utilities team as such in London," says Buchanan. "I have known Wilf for more than two years. He has only changed jobs so often because several of the firms he was with were down." This addition to the utilities team is particularly significant for Smith New Court since it is advising all 12 of the electricity generating boards. Once dealings in electricity shares begin on December 11, the firm will remain broker to four of them, East Midlands, Southern, South Wales and Norweb. "We will also be brokers to Hydro-Electricity, so it is great to have Wilf joining us," adds Buchanan.

Child benefit

SALES executives at Save & Prosper, the investment house, have a special incentive to bring in extra

business before Christmas. Not only will their career prospects improve, but the BBC Children in Need appeal could benefit to the tune of £250,000. Save & Prosper will give the charity the equivalent of the first monthly premium for every individual life and pension plan opened through their direct sales division between now and Christmas Eve. The company has set the ball rolling with a donation of £50,000, but senior executives expect that, with 700 ambitious salesmen and women taking part, the final figure will be five times that amount.

Handover herald

CITY analysts are not always known for their versatility, but John Bailey of Cazenove, Louise Hough of BZW, Emma Burdett of Hoare Govett and Mark Huxson of SG Warburg could well have an alternative career ahead of them should



"Ms Gordon, sweep the window ledge for me"

they ever become bored with following the retail sector. The four stars of the show at a karaoke party hosted by Our Price in Brixton with a rendition of the John Travolta/Olivia Newton John classic song *Summer Nights*. The party, held at trendy nightclub the Fridge, was to celebrate the opening of the three hundredth Our Price store, part of the WH Smith chain. The only criticism of the quartet was their over-emphasis of the line "Tell me more, tell me more", which they sang while staring fixedly at Our Price managing director Richard Handover, who came a close second with his version of *Big Spender*. With their voices lubricated by small quantities of Japanese beer, the four even outshone the official band, EMF, which observers described as "noisy" in comparison.

Dogged daring

ANYONE who thinks there is no money left in the City should have been at the Savoy Hotel on Wednesday when 350 bankers and brokers gathered for the October Club 1990 Racing Dinner. The event raised more than £110,000 for COMBAT to fund research into Huntington's chorea, the debilitating disease. "It's really quite humbling to have raised so much money in these markets. The last race raised £40,000 alone," says James Lupton, a director of Baring Brothers, who successfully challenged two tables to increase their bets. "A few of us put £800

down and challenged Cazenove and Morgan Grenfell to do the same. Then there was a stampede, since everyone else wanted to do better than them." Donors included Chris Statham, a UK equity salesman at Morgan Stanley, who forked out £900 for a gothic dog kennel, designed by Thomas Messel and Lord Snowdon. "He doesn't even have a dog," says one amused colleague.

Unfortunate focus

AS IF plunging property values were not enough to contend with, property surveyor Conrad Riblitz, where John Riblitz, British Land's chairman, is the senior partner, is starting to think his luck really has taken a turn for the worse. Three of his employees have been struck down within a matter of days. At a football match in Brentwood, Essex, David Hyams, a partner of the firm, was head-butted by an opponent and treated for concussion. Then Bob Bowden, a partner in its investment department, broke his shoulder while goalkeeping. The hat-trick was completed yesterday when a Lucorade bottle fell out of the sky, knocking Richard Chaplin, a partner in the office agency department, unconscious as he walked to the Mayfair offices of Randsworth Trust, the property investment company. It has given a new meaning to the firm's slogan: "Concentrated energy, precisely focused".

CAROL LEONARD

Dan Air in sale talks at Cathay

DAVID James, the new chairman and chief executive of Davies & Newman, confirmed talks are under way with Cathay Pacific over the sale of the engineering base of the troubled Dan Air subsidiary at Gatwick airport.

However, he stressed Cathay is one of several companies in talks and any deal is still "some weeks away".

Mr James added there will be no changes in either the structure or operations at Dan Air in the immediate future. "As far as I am concerned I do not recognise any short-term timetable necessity and am not under any pressure to do anything radical. I have no problems in continuing as we are," he said.

It had been intended that a top airline manager would be appointed to the board to run the day to day activities of the airline, but that has been postponed.

"I have today formed a board of directors which, for the moment, remains the board which will continue as such well into the future. It had originally been thought that Sir Ian Pledger, the former chairman of Dan Air, would resign, but after discussions with Mr James he has agreed to stay on as non-executive director on the main Davies & Newman board. Mr James said this will enable Sir Ian's airline experience to be used in the transition period.

HARVEY ELLIOTT
Air Correspondent

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Greene King	Breweries	153
2	Marton Thompson	Breweries	153
3	GPG	Banks/Discount	153
4	Orica	Property	153
5	Johnson Matthey	Chemicals	153
6	Union Carbide	Chemicals	153
7	Freemantle	Media	153
8	Arrol-Johnston	Engineering	153
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Please take into account any minus signs

Week	Dividend	Share Price	Gain or Loss
1	153	153	153
2	153	153	153
3	153	153	153
4	153	153	153
5	153	153	153
6	153	153	153
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44	153	153	153
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48	153	153	153
49	153	153	153
50	153	153	153

Two people shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Ralph Jacob, of Ashford, Surrey, and Kathleen Wales, of Gillingham, Kent, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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UNDATED

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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INDEX-LINKED

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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ELECTRICALS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities gloomy

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 22. Dealings end today. Settlement day November 12. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 31).

BREWERIES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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BUILDING, ROADS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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FINANCE, LAND

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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FOODS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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DRAPEY, STORES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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HOTELS, CATERERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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S-Z

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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OVERSEAS TRADERS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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PAI 'R, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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PROPERTY

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SHOES, LEATHER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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TEXTILES

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TOBACCO

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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TRANSPORT

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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ATHLETICS

The marathon may be the event for Evans by a distance

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, NEW YORK

IMAGINE winning a million on the pools at the age of 30 and you will have some idea of how Paul Evans has been feeling. Evans was well into athlete's middle-age when, thanks to a whim, he joined sport's upper classes. Local league footballer at 25, jet-setting athlete at 29. Now he is out to spend, spend, spend his talent before it is too late.

Evans's first cross on the coupon was the Lowestoft Carnival, 1986. He entered the road race with his football team to raise money for charity, emptied some pockets and turned a few heads. Footballers with no experience of 10-kilometre racing are not supposed to run 33min 33sec on their first time out.

Evans has developed into one of Britain's best of the track (28min 18sec this year) and, following the principle that without gambling you cannot win, he is ready to try. This time it is the New York Marathon, on Sunday. A bit like Lowestoft, really. No one here is expecting to see him at the sharp end.

But British marathon running is in need of a rescue act, as the Commonwealth Games and European championships proved. Unlike most, Evans wants to compete in a championship more than anything else. A good run here would veer him towards the marathon.

Anything under the 2hr 10min he is aiming for — and the course is a tough one —

should stir the British board with offers of financial help and immediate selection for the world championships next year, though it probably will not. If you are tough enough to run 26 miles, you are tough enough to look after yourself is the board's apparent attitude.

And, on marathon selection, there was so much dithering over picking Geoff Wightman, an obvious choice, for the European championships that they are hardly likely to be forward-thinking enough to give an athletic nine months notice.

Evans made his international 10,000 metres debut in June with a win against Finland; in August, in the Sun Life Great Race, a three-week endurance event covering 235 miles, he was Britain's best again, winning five stages; now, hurrying on to the next peak, he is here for his marathon debut without so much as a training run of more than 20 miles behind him.

You can hear the sub-2hr 20min club whispering: "Sub-2hr 10min? No chance." The Belgrave Harrier, though, is not so sure.

He covered the Great Race at 2hr 10min marathon pace. On the seventeenth day of hard running, he threw in a 63min 38sec half marathon. "The days of Steve Jones are gone and I would like to think I might be the next British marathon runner of his standard," Evans said. "There is only one way to find out."

Jones set a world-best 2hr 8min 55sec in 1984 but, though Paul Davies-Hale won Chicago last year and Allister Hutton is the London champion, only one Briton, Tony Milovosovic, has run sub-2hr 10min since the New York marathon two years ago, and that was not by much.

Evans has been tugged this way and that in trying to decide if he is ready. "I am scared of the marathon because people say that, once you go up in distance, it is hard to come back down and I'll be stuck with it," he said during the Great Race.

"People," evidently, do not realise that two of the world's best, Douglas Wakihara and Steve Monaghan, have improved their 10,000 metres since becoming marathon runners. David Moorcroft, Britain's 5,000 metres European record-holder, is one who has tried to dissuade Evans. "He should explore his potential at 10,000 metres first," Moorcroft said.

But Evans has voted with Waldemar Cierpinski, twice the Olympic marathon champion. "Cierpinski told me that the type of running I was doing in the Great Race was the sort of training he was doing before he won his Olympic medals," Evans said. It was as if the man from Zetters had called round to help him fill in his coupon.

The race for runners who like the wild going



In the dark: Karrimor runners, with maps and compasses at the ready, need a torch, too, when the going gets murky

Masters of suffering and survival

WAITING to start the annual Karrimor International Mountain Marathon beside Loch Rannoch in the central highlands of Scotland, I thought nervously about the two days of survival and self-sufficiency that lay ahead. I would be crossing some of the most remote mountain terrain in Britain but competing against over 3,000 other runners who had been drawn to this remote spot to take part in a unique race.

For the past 23 years, the challenge of the "Karrimor" has attracted fell runners and orienteers to mountain areas all over Britain and it is now so popular that the organisers — who make outdoor equipment — reject more applications to take part than they accept. Any race which can inspire such huge numbers to travel so far north for an uncomfortable weekend in hostile surroundings must be special, but the only way to discover the secret of the Karrimor experience was the hard way. I had to take part.

For safety reasons everyone competes in pairs and my partner was Ian Douglas, a very capable Scottish hill walker. Finding the right partner is essential as the Karrimor tests teamwork to the limit and has been known to make and break friendships. Next we needed to

pack carefully for an overnight camp as we had to be self-sufficient for the two days of the race. Taking too much would slow us down but carrying too little food or clothing could lead to exhaustion and hypothermia.

We arrived at the start with 15lb packs but no idea where we would have to go. Like all adventures, the Karrimor is about stepping into the unknown and only as we started were we given a list of map references locating the points we must visit to complete our 24-kilometre course for the day. Some were on mountain tops, others in the middle of nowhere and finding them and choosing the fastest route between them was the navigational part of the challenge.

We were soon crossing trackless open countryside where thick heather, numerous bogs and flooded burns made progress difficult, especially carrying a rucksack. At least, the weather was dry and map and compass work was made easy by the high cloud level. Had we been in thick mist, finding our

way would have been far more difficult.

Not everyone was finding the navigation easy and we came across pairs who, if not hopelessly lost, were arguing bitterly about which way to go. For us, the physical strain of crossing such wild terrain was more tiring, especially the long climbs and wading rivers, one of which I fell into.

After four-and-a-half hours and just when I felt I could not go up another hill, we finished our course at the base of the beautiful Glen Lyon where a field was set aside for the overnight camp. Now the contents of our rucksacks had to be unpacked and our camp craft came into play. The more comfortable and well-fed we were at the camp, the better we would perform on the second day.

During the afternoon what had previously been a deserted spot was transformed into a thriving tented city as more and more teams arrived, many taking complete control of the camp. As the sun set around their stoves, the conversations were about the shared experiences of the day and the prospects for tomorrow. It was an atmosphere of camaraderie, not competition.

The first day had been a test of

stamina and self-reliance, battling against the elements and the mountains, but the overnight publication of the results so far reminded us we were also competing in a race. Having survived so far, we were already more confident and thorough place out of 250 brought a competitive edge to the second day.

Nevertheless, getting started again early next morning was an uncomfortable experience as wet shoes and clothes were put on and aching muscles forced into action. At 19 kilometres, there was less distance to cover on the second day but low cloud, rain and more climbing meant it was just as difficult for already weary legs.

Inspired by our high position and with no navigational errors, we pushed ourselves harder, finishing back at Loch Rannoch in just under four hours and at the point of exhaustion. Our efforts were enough to take 19th place but that was secondary to the feeling of triumph at simply completing the course. Crossing the line, I realised why runners return to this race again and again. Elation at the finish more than compensated for any hardships along the way and the satisfaction of having completed the challenge. The Karrimor is held next year, I will enter again.

RACING

Carson denied as Arzanni shines

WILLIE Carson must wait a little longer to register his best score after drawing a blank from two rides at Newmarket yesterday.

Carson began the day on 182 winners, his total when he won his third championship in 1978, and looked to have an excellent chance of reaching a personal milestone on Trainglot, the Cesarewitch winner, in the George Stakes.

Unhappily for Carson, however, Arzanni, the mount of Pat Eddery, proved far too much of a handful and ran out an emphatic three lengths winner. Arzanni, trained by Luca Cumani, looks the type to progress into a force in next season's cup races.

Arzanni was the second winner of the day for Eddery. The champion, now on the 204 mark for the season, initiated a 9v-1 double by capturing division one of the Terrace House Maiden Stakes on Shitama, the 11-8 favourite, his first held Rasque by a short head.

Alec Scott, the trainer of Shitama, said: "She has really only had a month's preparation as she had a lot of scope in her training. I had hoped to introduce her early in September, but she jarred herself."

Scott made it a 5-1 double by taking the other division of the race with another newcomer, Possessive Dancer, on whom Walter Swinburn got up by a neck to beat No Comebacks. The winning rider bred Possessive Dancer — his first success in this realm and the filly races for his mother Doreen.

Swinburn was completing a near 6-1 double on Possessive Dancer after comfortably landing the Queen's Plate Maiden Stakes by 3½ lengths on Perfolia, trained by John Gosden.

Weather to blame for entry drop

By BRIAN BEEL

THE recently published statistics of the Jockey Club on the 1990 point-to-point season are meaningless as a measure of judging the health of the sport.

Both entries and number of runners showed a significant decline from previous seasons but this was caused entirely by the weather, with lack of rain making the going firm on most courses from early April. Although 46 changes have been made to the regulations for 1991, only half a dozen or so have much significance.

The responsibilities of the clerk of the course have been redefined so that the committee bears the ultimate responsibility for courses, fences and safety; the penalty value for ineligibility of former steeplechasers to run in point-to-point races has been raised by £1,000 to £7,500; any rider who has a fall must report to the doctor.

On one occasion last season a horse was withdrawn without the owner's permission, but in future the authority to act for an owner must be in writing. Unless a withdrawal has been caused by circumstances outside the control of the owner, a fine of £100 will be imposed.

A new insurance scheme for riders has been introduced giving a weekly payment of £100 for anybody unable to work following a point-to-point injury.

Desert Orchid has Devon among options

DESERT Orchid has been entered for the Plymouth Hurdle Maiden Gold Cup Chase at Devon on Tuesday but a decision on his participation will not be made until next week.

The grey's trainer, David Elsworth, will also enter him at Wincanton next Thursday, where he could run in either the Badger Beer Handicap, now run over three miles one furlong, or the Silver Buck Handicap Chase, the race he won last year though now reduced in distance to two miles five furlongs.

Panto Prince, the winner of the Devon race last season, will also be entered at Wincanton, as well as the Needwood Champion Chase at Uttoxeter the same day.

The eight acceptors are: Blueberry King, Clever Folly, Desert Orchid, Knockback, Panto Prince, Sabin Du Loir, Seton Country, Wincanton Boy.

Raymond plans Macau visit

Bruce Raymond will ride in Macau for two months this winter. He leaves Britain at the end of the month to join the leading local trainer, Paul Leung Che-Pong.

Raymond joins Lester Pigott, who has announced his intention to ride in Hong Kong, and Pat Eddery.

BADMINTON

Pointers to future in series loss

ENGLAND'S series loss to Denmark is providing insights into what planning Ciro Ciniglio, the manager, must do to start a revival over the next two years. (Richard Eaton writes) England's third defeat by the European champions, 4-0 at Swindon on Wednesday, settled the series.

Darren Hall is crucial to the squad. The England No. 1, who beat Poul-Erik Hoyer, the Danish Open champion, at Milton Keynes, is the only singles player varying on world class.

The other singles players, Peter Bush, is getting a valuable experience. His progress in the coming months will decide whether he figures in long-term plans.

Ciniglio wants to send young players to the Far East. John Quinn, Neil Cottrell, Robert Knock and Stefan Pandya may go as doubles players.

RESULTS: England 0, Denmark 4 (Eng players first: P Bush lost to T Seng Laursen, 15-13, D Hall lost to P Hoyer, 15-12, 15-12; N Cottrell and D Wright lost to T Lund and J Holst-Christensen, 15-4, 15-3; Pandya and Bush lost to Lund and Seng Laursen, 15-7, 15-12, 15-2).

SCHOOLS RUGBY

Methodist College may find cup a test

By MICHAEL STEVENSON

WITH the draw for the Ulster Schools' Cup imminent, Methodist College, who are still unbeaten, have already established themselves as firm favourites, although they only scraped home (11-9) against Ballymena Academy.

The ease with which Royal Belfast A.I. saw off Ballymena (23-4) suggests that MCB will be pushed all the way, although Coleraine, having slipped up against Ballymena (15-6), did manage to beat RBAL.

Reset by injury problems, Yorkshire Schools, who have just returned from a brief Irish tour, found Ulster in impressive mood at Ravenhill (31-7) and also lost in Dublin, where they met Leinster Schools (24-6).

Trinity, Croydon, with four county players in a strong pack, have maintained their unbeaten record with further victories against MCS Widdowson (20-0), St Dunstan's (14-4) and RGS Guildford (18-3), scoring 249 points in the process to only 23 conceded.

Plymouth College reached the half-term break, unbeaten in regular fixtures with wins to

report against: Wellington School (26-7), West Buckland (40-0), Monmouth (11-7), Truro (9-0) and St Brendan's (13-10). A young Wexham side, which was initially plagued by injuries, has still managed to win five and lose only three matches, scoring 109 points to 80 conceded.

Following their narrow defeat in the under-18 Daily Mail Cup by Pangbourne (4-7), Douai have won all their matches. They have been particularly well served by their three senior citizens, captain and flanker, Joseph McWilliams, Jonathan Spragg, at scrum half and Simon Dalton, in the centre.

King's, Macclesfield reached the break with two defeats and five victories to report but some stern tests lie ahead. Solihull, who had lost their unbeaten record to Ampleforth (9-18), caught Stonyhurst with some key players missing and raced to a commanding victory by 50-9.

Culford have won five and lost four matches and they toured Hampshire successfully at half-term, beating Petersfield Under-19s (37-0) and Church's College (9-8).

Throw the element of local rivalry into the struggle for top position and Yorkshire and Sheffield League's main prize is a little confusing. Sheffield is, after all, in Yorkshire. But so vast are the counties involved and so great the number of players that four of one League's counties — Sheffield, Lancashire, Manchester and Humberside — have all earned county status and compete in the championships alongside their county rivals.

Meanwhile, Manchester League will be hoping that when they turn out for their game against Lancashire on Saturday these good boys will be in place. Last week, somebody walked off with them before a ball had been hit in anger. Elsewhere in the East region, the match of the day will be between Acm, last year's area champions, and Essex, the runners-up. Last week, Essex were caught out when two of their team were still on a plane returning from their holidays. Despite some hasty re-training, Essex still ran out 34-0 winners over Norfolk.

Kent, too, have had their problems. With three of their players in the England camp, Kent were unable to play for their county, plus a couple of retirements, they are not the force that lifted the county trophy two years running.

In the South, the leadership could well change hands when the three top teams meet, Hampshire playing Middlesex and Berkshire. The same is true in the Midlands where Staffordshire, in first place, take on Warwickshire, lying second on goal difference.

As the top teams steal the limelight, have a care for the smaller counties, such as Lincolnshire and Berkshire. The play Suffolk on Sunday and, while the result may not be the most significant of the week, Lincolnshire will be giving it their all. Last time these two sides met, Suffolk won 17-0 and Lincoln are determined not to let that happen again.

HOCKEY

Counties locked in rivalry

By ALIX RAMSAY

COMPETITION is getting tight and tense in the Nat West women's county championships after only two weeks of competition. In the north area, Lancashire, the national champions, have much work to do to catch up with the leaders. Last year, Lancashire cruised to the area title without conceding a goal and it seemed to be in much the same form last Saturday, thrashing Humberside 6-1. A defeat at the hands of Sheffield League has put them back in fourth place in the table.

In the North's crunch match will be tonight between Yorkshire and Sheffield League, lying first and second in the table. To the casual observer, this may seem a little confusing. Sheffield is, after all, in Yorkshire. But so vast are the counties involved and so great the number of players that four of one League's counties — Sheffield, Lancashire, Manchester and Humberside — have all earned county status and compete in the championships alongside their county rivals.

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ROWING

Time to encourage sculling

From RICHARD BURNELL in TASMANIA

THE outstanding British performance on semi-finals day in the world championships here on Lake Burragorang came from Matthew Pinsent and Steven Redgrave in the heavyweight coxless pairs. Barring accidents there was never any doubt that they would qualify for the final, but they did it in style as the flagship of any fleet should do.

On paper it looked a tough heat with Redgrave's old rivals, the Russian Pimenov brothers, Yuri and Nikolai, Karl Sinzing and Hermann Bauer of Austria, world bronze medal

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winner in 1989 and Henley Goblets winners this year, and the formidable Yugoslav pair, Lazo Pivak and Zed Marusic. Pinsent and Redgrave dominated from the first stroke. Pivak and Marusic were always second, the Pimenovs always third, while Sinzing and Bauer, from a fever, the Austrians were never in the race. The Yugoslavians, Russians and Phillip Schuller and Golo Geissler, of West Germany, battled all the way for the second and third places which would take them to the final. Less than three seconds separated these three pairs at the finish, the West Germans losing out in fourth place.

SEMI-FINAL RESULTS

Men
First three in each semi-final qualify for final.
LIGHTWEIGHT SINGLE SCULLS: First semi-final: 1. J Murphy (GB) 7min 14.56sec; 2. P Stansfield (GB) 7:16.03; 3. A O'Toole (Ire) 7:18.29. Second semi-final: 1. J Murphy (GB) 7:23.26; 2. J Moe Ems (Den) 7:25.50; 3. T Goble (Ire) 7:25.50. 2. V Van Betsch (Bel) 7:14.21; 3. D Healey (GB) 7:15.4; 4. F Bower (GB) 7:15.4; 5. J Widdowson (GB) 7:23.78; 6. M Furtuch (Swe) 7:42.25.
MIDWEIGHT DOUBLE SCULLS: First semi-final: 1. West Germany 6:41.70; 2. Spain 6:42.69; 3. Denmark 6:43.12; 4. Scotland 6:43.14; 5. Can. 6:44.26; 6. Australia 6:45.84. Second semi-final: 1. Netherlands 6:44.42; 2. Australia 6:45.34; 3. United States 6:45.34; 4. Italy 6:48.53; 5. Denmark 6:52.36; 6. Britain 6:52.43.
HEAVYWEIGHT DOUBLE SCULLS: First semi-final: 1. France 6:42.08; 2. Denmark 6:43.37; 3. Netherlands 6:44.26; 4. Australia 6:45.34; 5. United States 6:45.34; 6. Austria 7:03.11. Second semi-final: 1. Italy 6:55.74; 2. Australia 6:56.34; 3. France 6:56.34; 4. Sweden 6:57.35; 5. Britain (N Strang) 6:58.04; 6. Can. 7:01.29.
QUADRUPEL SCULLS: First semi-final: 1. Soviet Union 6:14.52; 2. Netherlands 6:15.72; 3. Sweden 6:16.07; 4. Norway 6:16.44; 5. France 6:23.56; 6. Norway 6:24.54; 7. Britain 6:25.04; 8. Poland 6:25.04; 9. Poland 6:25.04; 10. Poland 6:25.04; 11. Poland 6:25.04; 12. Poland 6:25.04; 13. Poland 6:25.04; 14. Poland 6:25.04; 15. Poland 6:25.04; 16. Poland 6:25.04; 17. Poland 6:25.04; 18. Poland 6:25.04; 19. Poland 6:25.04; 20. Poland 6:25.04; 21. Poland 6:25.04; 22. Poland 6:25.04; 23. Poland 6:25.04; 24. Poland 6:25.04; 25. Poland 6:25.04; 26. Poland 6:25.04; 27. Poland 6:25.04; 28. Poland 6:25.04; 29. Poland 6:25.04; 30. Poland 6:25.04; 31. Poland 6:25.04; 32. Poland 6:25.04; 33. Poland 6:25.04; 34. Poland 6:25.04; 35. Poland 6:25.04; 36. Poland 6:25.04; 37. Poland 6:25.04; 38. Poland 6:25.04; 39. Poland 6:25.04; 40. Poland 6:25.04; 41. Poland 6:25.04; 42. Poland 6:25.04; 43. Poland 6:25.04; 44. Poland 6:25.04; 45. Poland 6:25.04; 46. Poland 6:25.04; 47. Poland 6:25.04; 48. Poland 6:25.04; 49. Poland 6:25.04; 50. Poland 6:25.04; 51. Poland 6:25.04; 52. Poland 6:25.04; 53. Poland 6:25.04; 54. Poland 6:25.04; 55. Poland 6:25.04; 56. Poland 6:25.04; 57. Poland 6:25.04; 58. Poland 6:25.04; 59. Poland 6:25.04; 60. Poland 6:25.04; 61. Poland 6:25.04; 62. Poland 6:25.04; 63. Poland 6:25.04; 64. Poland 6:25.04; 65. Poland 6:25.04; 66. Poland 6:25.04; 67. Poland 6:25.04; 68. Poland 6:25.04; 69. Poland 6:25.04; 70. Poland 6:25.04; 71. Poland 6:25.04; 72. Poland 6:25.04; 73. Poland 6:25.04; 74. Poland 6:25.04; 75. Poland 6:25.04; 76. Poland 6:25.04; 77. Poland 6:25.04; 78. Poland 6:25.04; 79. Poland 6:25.04; 80. Poland 6:25.04; 81. Poland 6:25.04; 82. Poland 6:25.04; 83. Poland 6:25.04; 84. Poland 6:25.04; 85. Poland 6:25.04; 86. Poland 6:25.04; 87. Poland 6:25.04; 88. Poland 6:25.04; 89. Poland 6:25.04; 90. Poland 6:25.04; 91. Poland 6:25.04; 92. Poland 6:25.04; 93. Poland 6:25.04; 94. Poland 6:25.04; 95. Poland 6:25.04; 96. Poland 6:25.04; 97. Poland 6:25.04; 98. Poland 6:25.04; 99. Poland 6:25.04; 100. Poland 6:25.04; 101. Poland 6:25.04; 102. Poland 6:25.04; 103. Poland 6:25.04; 104. Poland 6:25.04; 105. Poland 6:25.04; 106. Poland 6:25.04; 107. Poland 6:25.04; 108. Poland 6:25.04; 109. Poland 6:25.04; 110. Poland 6:25.04; 111. Poland 6:25.04; 112. Poland 6:25.04; 113. Poland 6:25.04; 114. Poland 6:25.04; 115. Poland 6:25.04; 116. Poland 6:25.04; 117. Poland 6:25.04; 118. Poland 6:25.04; 119. Poland 6:25.04; 120. Poland 6:25.04; 121. Poland 6:25.04; 122. Poland 6:25.04; 123. Poland 6:25.04; 124. Poland 6:25.04; 125. Poland 6:25.04; 126. Poland 6:25.04; 127. Poland 6:25.04; 128. Poland 6:25.04; 129. Poland 6:25.04; 130. Poland 6:25.04; 131. Poland 6:25.04; 132. Poland 6:25.04; 133. Poland 6:25.04; 134. Poland 6:25.04; 135. Poland 6:25.04; 136. Poland 6:25.04; 137. Poland 6:25.04; 138. Poland 6:25.04; 139. Poland 6:25.04; 140. Poland 6:25.04; 141. Poland 6:25.04; 142. Poland 6:25.04; 143. Poland 6:25.04; 144. Poland 6:25.04; 145. Poland 6:25.04; 146. Poland 6:25.04; 147. Poland 6:25.04; 148. Poland 6:25.04; 149. Poland 6:25.04; 150. Poland 6:25.04; 151. Poland 6:25.04; 152. Poland 6:25.04; 153. Poland 6:25.04; 154. Poland 6:25.04; 155. Poland 6:25.04; 156. Poland 6:25.04; 157. Poland 6:25.04; 158. Poland 6:25.04; 159. Poland 6:25.04; 160. Poland 6:25.04; 161. Poland 6:25.04; 162. Poland 6:25.04; 163. Poland 6:25.04; 164. Poland 6:25.04; 165. Poland 6:25.04; 166. Poland 6:25.04; 167. Poland 6:25.04; 168. Poland 6:25.04; 169. Poland 6:25.04; 170. Poland 6:25.04; 171. Poland 6:25.04; 172. Poland 6:25.04; 173. Poland 6:25.04; 174. Poland 6:25.04; 175. Poland 6:25.04; 176. Poland 6:25.04; 177. Poland 6:25.04; 178. Poland 6:25.04; 179. Poland 6:25.04; 180. Poland 6:25.04; 181. Poland 6:25.04; 182. Poland 6:25.04; 183. Poland 6:25.04; 184. Poland 6:25.04; 185. Poland 6:25.04; 186. Poland 6:25.04; 187. Poland 6:25.04; 188. Poland 6:25.04; 189. Poland 6:25.04; 190. Poland 6:25.04; 191. Poland 6:25.04; 192. Poland 6:25.04; 193. Poland 6:25.04; 194. Poland 6:25.04; 195. Poland 6:25.04; 196. Poland 6:25.04; 197. Poland 6:25.04; 198. Poland 6:25.04; 199. Poland 6:25.04; 200. Poland 6:25.04; 201. Poland 6:25.04; 202. Poland 6:25.04; 203. Poland 6:25.04; 204. Poland 6:25.04; 205. Poland 6:25.04; 206. Poland 6:25.04; 207. Poland 6:25.04; 208. Poland 6:25.04; 209. Poland 6:25.04; 210. Poland 6:25.04; 211. Poland 6:25.04; 212. Poland 6:25.04; 213. Poland 6:25.04; 214. Poland 6:25.04; 215. Poland 6:25.04; 216. Poland 6:25.04; 217. Poland 6:25.04; 218. Poland 6:25.04; 219. Poland 6:25.04; 220. Poland 6:25.04; 221. Poland 6:25.04; 222. Poland 6:25.04; 223. Poland 6:25.04; 224. Poland 6:25.04; 225. Poland 6:25.04; 226. Poland 6:25.04; 227. Poland 6:25.04; 228. Poland 6:25.04; 229. Poland 6:25.04; 230. Poland 6:25.04; 231. Poland 6:25.04; 232. Poland 6:25.04; 233. Poland 6:25.04; 234. Poland 6:25.04; 235. Poland 6:25.04; 236. Poland 6:25.04; 237. Poland 6:25.04; 238.

Cecil and Cauthen the team to follow at Newmarket to huddle

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

HENRY Cecil and Steve Cauthen can take Newmarket by storm today by winning the first three races with Volksraad, Shelegai and Halston Prince.

In going for Halston Prince to win the James Seymour Stakes, the day's most valuable race, I'm actually aware of the fact that there is a big tip for Michael Stoute's highly-rated but lightly-raced three-year-old Stargazer, who was successful at York three weeks ago when having his first race for more than four months.

On balance, however, I find it hard to oppose Halston Prince, whose form boasts greater strength in depth. After being campaigned over seven furlongs and a mile, his distance was increased to today's trip of a mile and a quarter at Ascot last month when he responded by giving 7lb and a half-length beating to the highly-regarded four-year-old Military Fashion, the medium



Cecil looks poised for a successful afternoon

of an enormous gamble that day and subsequently an easy winner at Newmarket yesterday.

Alphabel, at his best, would also make a strong challenge for honours but I still prefer Halston Prince.

His younger stable companion Volksraad is named to make a winning debut in the EBF Red Lodge Maiden Stakes on the advice of George Robinson, our Newmarket

correspondent, who says that there has been plenty of evidence on the Heath to support the view that this Sheikh Mohammed-owned colt has inherited plenty of speed from his sire Green Desert.

He also thinks that Shelegai, my selection for the Soham House Stakes, which the stable captured with none other than the classy Belmez 12 months ago, can continue the fine recent form shown by Cecil's two-year-olds by beating Dick Hern's newcomer Almayed.

As far as the Fitzroy House Handicap is concerned, I like none better than Petite Rosanna, who was beaten in a finish of heads by Roll A Dollar and Ameliane over the same course and distance during the last meeting. On that occasion Terminus, who has finished second at Doncaster in the meantime, was 3½ behind in fifth. Now Terminus has been allowed only 3lb.

With Dale Gibson drawing a 3lb allowance, Shades Of

Vera appeals as a sporting bet to win the Potter Nursery even though she has been penalised for that win at Pontefract eight days ago. That victory was achieved with plenty in hand.

On the all-weather surface at Lingfield, I like the look of Ashtina's chance of winning the Howes Handicap following a sound run in the race won by Aughrad at Newbury eight days ago.

On Wetherby's National Hunt programme I will be looking to Peter Easterby and Lorcan Wyer to land a double with Icearus (1.30) and Nine-otus (4.5).

At Bangor, where Peter Sendamarer can also land a double on Mariners Mirror (1.30) and Oketeke (2.0), while Jinky Jack starts afresh by contesting the Jones Peckover Novices' Chase.

Any horse who finished sixth in the Champion Hurdle as he did clearly has the ability to win a race of this nature, granted he can cross divide that separates hurdling from steeplechasing.

MORLEY Street, the winner of the Breeders' Cup Chase at Belmont Park last month, has returned to Toby Balding's yard in good heart and runs next in Ascot's Raceday Hurdle two weeks today. Balding then intends to send him chasing here in January.

"Although the Breeders' Cup was a chase, the jumps there are just like hurdles," Balding said. Another Balding-trained star, Forest Star, has been troubled by an injury to his knee in London and could be for the season. "We'll start to train him after Christmas," Balding said, "but if I've any doubts over the injury I'll rest him until next season."

Balding, however, has unexpected success with a potentially high-class performer in La Cienega, the 15 lengths winner of the Kone Lifts Novices' Hurdle at Kempton Park yesterday. La Cienega, the even money favourite, led at the second flight and was never challenged.

"He looks a racehorse," Balding said. "His steering has been slightly wayward in the past but should be pulled hard here he did little else wrong."

La Cienega will step up in class for the Reynoldstown Hurdle at Wolverhampton.

Selections

By Mandarin

- 1.15 VOLKSRAAD (nap).
- 1.45 Shelegai.
- 2.15 Halston Prince.
- 2.50 Petite Rosanna.
- 3.20 Rousillon To Be.
- 3.50 Shades Of Vera.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

- 1.15 VOLKSRAAD (nap).
- 1.45 Shelegai.
- 2.15 Stargazer.
- 2.50 Terminus.
- 3.20 Rousillon To Be.
- 3.50 Saccue.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.50 Rousillon To Be.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 HALSTON PRINCE.

Going: good

1.15 EBF RED LODGE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,272: 6f) (15 runners)

- 101 (1) 0 BARROD (P. Hamilton) A-Malcolm C. Bennett 9-0
- 102 (14) 0 BERLIN WALL (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0
- 103 (14) 0 BOWDOWN BOY (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0
- 104 (5) 0 CRU EXCEPITIONNEL (P. Hamilton) P. Main 9-0
- 105 (13) 0 ENDED (P. Hamilton) R. Hollands 9-0
- 106 (13) 0 MARWAD (P. Hamilton) A. Scott 9-0
- 107 (13) 0 MEZAN (P. Hamilton) J. Czapka 9-0
- 108 (13) 0 PLEASURE HOUR (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0
- 109 (13) 0 PLEASURE HOUR (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0
- 110 (13) 0 PLEASURE HOUR (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0
- 111 (13) 0 PLEASURE HOUR (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0
- 112 (13) 0 PLEASURE HOUR (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0
- 113 (13) 0 PLEASURE HOUR (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0
- 114 (13) 0 PLEASURE HOUR (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0
- 115 (13) 0 PLEASURE HOUR (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0

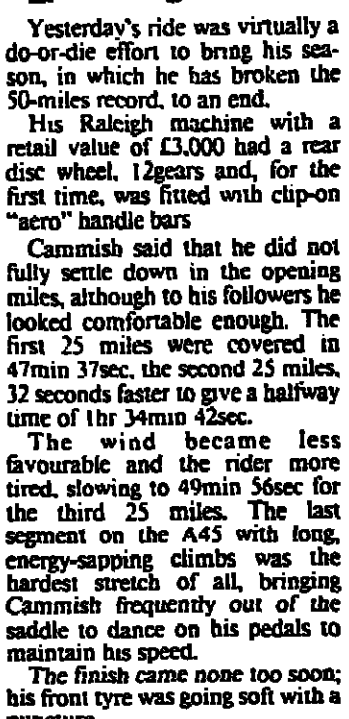
Draw: no advantage

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- 115 (13) 0 PLEASURE HOUR (P. Hamilton) L. Cullen 9-0

101-115: 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Jon Cammish: sliced record

BOXING

Lewis on way to a crack at the title

By SRIKUMAR SEN
CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE countdown to the world title challenge has started for Lennox Lewis. Britain's exciting young heavyweight who lifted the European title on Wednesday night.

Lewis had no trouble disposing of Jean-Maurice Chancel, of France, in six rounds. It was a one-sided contest with Lewis taking charge of matters. Now, the Olympic champion who won 12 gold medals as an amateur, wants Gary Mason, the British champion, followed by Derek Williams, the Commonwealth champion, and Ken Lakusta, the Canadian title-holder, and then whoever is left.

While the first three are making up their minds, Lewis intends to stay in shape with his first defence on December 5 at the Albert Hall, possibly against Cesare di Bennetto, the Italian champion.

could decide to go for the world title within 18 months. However, Lewis's American trainer John Davenport, thinks his charge will need at least two years to be ready for the world champion.

Neither Lewis nor Davenport was happy about his boxing Maloney said: "Lennox is never happy with himself and it

Lewis said: "I could have doubled up on the jabs a bit more and put in bigger punches earlier in the fight." "I would have liked him to sit on his punches," Davenport said. He explained that Lewis was hav-

"They taught him the eastern European way of punching and getting out. In amateur boxing it works because it's the points that count. But professional rely on power so you've got to be in there longer." Davenport admitted that Lewis's American

counterpart, Riddick Bowe, has progressed faster, but he was uncertain that Lewis, who has been too good for Bowe at Seoul, would finish up the better man again.

Levitt may soon have to make up its mind on whether it wants the greatest prize in the world or just the millions that Lewis as a world title challenger can bring.

Much will depend on Lewis' progress. If he is given enough time, he could bring the world title to Britain. After all, it took Evander Holyfield six years. Lewis lifted his European title without being aware of the battle backstage to save the contest. Chanet had been forced to remove a liniment that had been smeared over his chest and

"Chanel was told that there would be no fight, no money and no title unless he removed them. He knew exactly what it meant. As I called in an interpreter to make it absolutely clear," John Morris, the secretary of the boxing board, said. It has been suggested that it

ould have been same liniment
that made Derek Williams
hallucinate when facing Chanet
the first time That would not
explain why Chanet was not
affected by the evil smelling
stuff nor why its "hallucinating
powers" were not transferred
from Williams's gloves to the
Frenchman.

**ARE ENGLAND ON TOP
DOWN UNDER?**

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 odds changed at 2.30 pm on Thurs night
 44p per line on all other times etc. **VCL**

SPORT

Inexcusable confusion over the way aggressors are punished



Burrows, of Liverpool, stretches out a leg to pull down Wallace, of Manchester United, with a 'professional foul' that earned Burrows only a booking in the Rumbelows Cup tie at Old Trafford. The action was caught in freeze-frame by ITV Sport

Refereeing lottery of 'professional foul'

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

FOOTBALL referees have shown this week they still lack consistency in applying the clear and firm directive from Fifa about the "professional foul": the deliberate offence committed to stop the other side scoring. Such a foul was committed during three of the Rumbelows Cup ties — and each offender received a different penalty.

Neil Poynton, Manchester City's left back, was not even censured for bringing down Kevin Campbell, of Arsenal. David Burrows, Liverpool's left back, was merely

booked for felling Danny Wallace, Manchester United's winger. Dave Watson, Everton's central defender, was sent off for baulking Brian Deane, of Sheffield United.

Such confusion is inexcusable. Once Fifa, the world governing body, had seen what it called "the advantages which have already been demonstrated during the World Cup finals", law 12 (n) was amended even before the tournament ended. A mandatory instruction was circulated on July 6 specifically to clear the minds and the consciences of referees.

"If, in the opinion of a referee, a player, who is moving towards his

opponent's goal with an obvious opportunity to score, is intentionally and physically impeded by unlawful means, thus denying the attacking player's team the scoring opportunity, the offending player shall be sent off for serious foul play."

In the opinion of Alf Buxsh, the referee of the Sheffield United-Everton match, Watson was guilty and the appropriate action was taken. The evidence of television suggests that the challenge was clumsy rather than deliberate. Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, could be excused for feeling that the decision was particularly

cruel: without Watson, Everton lost the tie, and Harvey lost his job.

In the opinion of Ken Redfern, the referee of the Manchester City-Arsenal match, Poynton was innocent and no action was taken. Curiously, though, a free-kick was awarded to Arsenal. Fifa's missive states categorically that "unlawful means" should be interpreted as any offence which is "punishable by a free-kick or a penalty".

In the opinion of Joe Worrall, the referee of the Manchester United-Liverpool match, Burrows was neither guilty nor innocent. The case was the most blatant of

the three and, as 42,033 people waited for the verdict at Old Trafford, it seemed as though there could be only one conclusion: Liverpool were about to be reduced to ten men.

The more the incident was replayed on television on Wednesday night, the sharper the image became: it was a deliberate foul in its execution and timing; Burrows, realising he had no chance of overtaking Wallace or tackling him legitimately, thrust out a foot and hooked Wallace to the ground.

When Worrall finished speaking to Burrows and flourished only a

yellow card, United's supporters saw red. They remembered that Steve Bruce had been dismissed for the same offence earlier this season. Not only was he suspended for three matches, he also lost the captaincy.

As Alex Ferguson, the United manager, noted, Bruce may have been responsible for the leniency shown to Burrows, whose intentions had been evident as he chased after Wallace. As Wallace lay sprawled on the turf, Bruce ran over to Worrall to plead for mercy.

Thankfully, the result was not affected, but it is as well to

consider the possible consequences had Liverpool gone on to maintain their unbeaten sequence on Wednesday night and earn a replay. Instead of leaving the stadium in a state of delirium, United's followers might have been tempted to vent their frustration.

Nothing is more likely to incite a crowd than the professional foul. Managers may choose to turn a blind eye whenever it is convenient but referees must be seen consistently to use the power they have been given. No longer can they claim to be whistling in the dark.

Royle the favourite for Everton's job

By IAN ROSS

ON A day when he was privately insisting that he would not be applying for the job, Joe Royle yesterday moved a step closer to becoming the next manager of Everton.

Royle, the manager of Oldham Athletic, the second division leaders, has emerged as the man most likely to succeed Colin Harvey, who was dismissed on Wednesday as a direct consequence of Everton's disappointing start to the season.

Although Everton's decision to advertise the vacant post would suggest that the club's board of directors has entered the search for Harvey's successor with an open mind, Royle tops an unofficial shortlist of candidates which would have included Ron Atkinson, had the manager of Sheffield Wednesday not yesterday ruled himself out.

Several members of the Everton board had been lobbying for Atkinson's

appointment but the chances of the former manager of Manchester United assuming command at Goodison Park receded with the news that he is shortly to sign an extension to his present contract which will tie him to the South Yorkshire club until June, 1993.

"We are very flattered that Everton would want Ron Atkinson but if they ask for permission to approach him, it will be refused," David Richards, the Wednesday chairman, said. "He is very much a part of our plans for the future and he will not be leaving. We do not need to draw up a battle plan to keep him and frankly I was amazed and shocked by all this speculation."

Atkinson, who was born in Liverpool, confirmed that he would shortly sign a new contract. "We are almost there. I have agreed a deal with the chairman which will be sorted out shortly. I love it here," he said.

Barring an unthinkable last minute application by Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, Atkinson's declaration of contentment with life at Hillsborough paves the way for the appointment of Royle once the two parties have agreed on a formula to officially open negotiations.

As Royle pondered a future of rich promise, the man he is set to replace reflected on his three-year spell in charge at Everton. Harvey, who has spent 25 of the last 27 years in the club's service, admitted that he had failed to seize the opportunity to keep Everton at the forefront of English football.

"The opportunity to be successful was there. There was always money available to me so I never had a problem in that respect," he said. "I just did not knit it all together. When the time is right, I shall return to Everton as a fan. It was heartbreaking to wake up this morning and realise that I wasn't going into work."

Barcelona offer £1m for Molby

JAN Molby, Liverpool's Danish international midfielder, is poised to join Barcelona in a £1 million deal (Ian Ross writes).

Representatives of the Spanish club have had preliminary negotiations with the League champions. Indications are that Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, will sanction the move, but only after securing a suitable replacement.

Johan Cruyff, the Barcelona coach, who played alongside Molby for Ajax of Amsterdam in the early 1980s, enquired about his availability after Ronald Koeman sustained a serious Achilles tendon injury.

Molby, aged 27, is contracted to Liverpool until the end of the season.

Senna tells Prost the best man is champion

ADELAIDE (Reuters)

Ayrton Senna, the world champion, said that Alain Prost, his main rival in Formula One motor racing, should stop complaining and accept he was beaten to the 1990 title by a better driver. The Brazilian was crowned champion in Japan after he crashed with Prost on the first corner in Suzuka. Both were forced to retire, wrecking Prost's chances of retaining his title.

"I beat him in the same car in 1988 and I beat him with a different car this year," Senna said yesterday on the eve of practice for the Australian grand prix here. "I did not have as good a car as he had [this year] and yet with the team I was able to put it together in such a special way to beat him."

"In the end he makes me laugh. He's a guy who complains so much but the championship was not won in Japan. It was won point by point, race by race and that is why it was so rewarding for me to know that I had it right. I believed that I could do it and I achieved it."

Senna, who drove alongside Prost for McLaren for two years, rarely mentioned Prost's name but talked of "him" in a way that showed he had little respect for his rival. After the race Prost said he believed the crash was deliberate but did not reply to Senna yesterday after instructions from his Ferrari team.

"If anything goes wrong, if anyone gets near to him, then it's a major problem," But leading drivers seemed to disagree with Senna yesterday, applauding the sport's governing body, Fisa, for launching an official enquiry into driving standards. Nelson Piquet, the former champion, told those who felt the crash in Japan had brought it on.

"After I saw the helicopter shots of the crash, I was very disappointed in Ayrton for what he'd done," Piquet said of his fellow Brazilian. "That was very, very bad for the sport."

Carling sees Argentina as five nations prelude

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ARGENTINA will make two changes to the side that came so close to beating Ireland for the second international of their tour, against England at Twickenham tomorrow. Matias Allen comes into the centre and Gonzalo Camardón wins his first cap at scrum half.

Allen's elevation is no surprise. He replaces Hernan Garcia Simon, who dislocated his elbow so badly in the 20-18 defeat against the Irish that his tour was ended and he returned home this week. Allen is the younger brother of Jorge Allen, the back-row forward who led his country during Rodolfo O'Reilly's period as coach, and was capped against Canada earlier this year.

He is slightly bigger than the powerful Garcia Simon, and it means little change to the style of the Pumas' midfield; that was possibly the main argument against introducing the elusive Lisandro Arbizu out of position, at centre rather than stand-off half.

Camardón, who snapped away busily against Eastern Counties on Tuesday, takes over from Rodrigo Crexell,

whose hands let him down at vital moments during his international debut at Lansdowne Road, Camardón, who will be 20 in December, is one of five teenagers in the party, of whom Jorge Mendez and Spiller are also in the international XV.

The Argentines trained at Lonsbury in warm sunshine yesterday while England, having gathered on Wednesday evening in time to work together, held their main training at the Stoop Memorial ground. Will Carling, the England captain, confirmed his recovery from a strained ankle ligament and shrugged off any suggestion that this was England's opportunity to take revenge for the defeat in the second summer international against the Pumas.

"There are far too many new people for it to be a revenge match for the tour," he said. "We view it more as the last game before the five nations, rather than the third game in a series with Argentina. This is a one-off that we have to use to look at players for the championship and, beyond that, the World Cup, as opposed to making sure we beat Argentina 2-1."

"This should be more of a reflection of the patterns of play we produced in the five nations last season. We developed an effective pattern, even though we lost one match, a basis from which we can progress. I'm happy with the foundation we've got but the next nine months of rugby will prove whether we are serious contenders or not."

Carling emphasised the need to produce quick second-phase and third-phase possession, which led last season to so many scores. "We had stages in the Barbarians game [in September] when we put pressure on them but didn't score any points because we didn't recycle the ball quickly enough," he said. "It's a matter of concentration rather than lack of ability."

Row over Irish rugby venue

By GEORGE ACE

THE cancellation by the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) of two All Ireland League first division matches scheduled for Lansdowne Road this Saturday and next and their decision to allow the European championship football match, scheduled for November 14, between the Republic of Ireland and England to go ahead, has caused a furore in rugby circles.

The IRFU, acting on the advice of the head groundsman, has informed Wanderers and Lansdowne, the two clubs that use the international ground on alternate weekends during the rugby season, that the ground will not be available for the Wanderers-Ballymena match tomorrow — it has been

transferred to Merrion Road — and Lansdowne's game against Constitution tomorrow week.

That the ground is not available for an important All Ireland league match on November 10 and is available for an international football match four days later is the main bone of contention.

Paul Clinch, captain of Lansdowne, said: "The bottom line is surely: is Lansdowne Road a rugby ground or a soccer pitch?" His counterpart at Wanderers, Kevin Leahy, said: "We are very disappointed. In effect it means that we are surrendering home advantage. I hope it will not cause too much distraction among the players."

A spokesman for the IRFU said: "The IRFU would like to emphasise that the decision to close the pitch for the next two weeks was taken to ensure that it will be in good condition for the home international rugby championship and the World Cup next year."

"So far as the November 14 international football match is concerned we are under contract to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) for that date."

Rugby's dilemma, page 38

Comeback delayed

The Neath and Wales lock, Gareth Llewellyn, out of action for six months with pelvic trouble, has decided to delay his rugby comeback for another week.

Logo cash plan in doubt for Test series

PERTH (Agencies) — Plans to cash in on England's Ashes tour of Australia may have to be shelved. With the first Test match in Brisbane now only three weeks away, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) is still no nearer to signing a money-spinning shirt sponsorship deal.

Following International Cricket Council agreement earlier this year, Graham Gooch's team could wear "discreet" advertising logos on their shirts during the Test series and World Series Cup.

However, despite putting the idea out to tender in August, there is still no company name on the dotted line. "Time is getting on," the tour manager, Peter Lush, said yesterday. "It comes down to budgets. Companies cannot always find extra money half way through a financial year."

The TCCB is keen to tie up a lengthy deal which could be worth about £1 million to the English game. "Negotiations are on-going and it's difficult to say whether anything will be concluded in time for all or part of the Ashes series," the TCCB marketing manager, Terry Blake, said.

Gooch and co, meanwhile, go into the first four-day game of their tour in Perth today with particular interest centred on Mike Atherton and Devon Malcolm.

Atherton, the opening batsman, has yet to show anything like his form of the English summer, while the key fast bowler, Malcolm, will be operating on the bounciest pitch in Australia.

Meanwhile, Bobby Simpson, the Australian coach, will be among those watching events in Perth. Apart from spying on England, Simpson is keen to have an early season look at several of the Western Australian team.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (from G A Gooch (captain), M A Atherton, D J Green, A J Lamb, R A Smith, J E Morris, G C Lewis, R C Russell, A H C Fraser, D E Malcolm, G C Smith, P G R Telford).

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How punters tricked Duff on Halloween night

PAUL Hodgkinson wants another bang at a world title, Barney Eastwood wants to bang some promoters heads together, and promoter Mickey Duff talks of banging away with a cannon in the Grand Hall at Wembley — an explosive mixture for a show that got underway in front of only 400 spectators.

It was European championship boxing night and Halloween on Wednesday and Eastwood felt he and his man Hodgkinson had been tricked not treated because of the antics of promoters.

Hodgkinson had done the business perfectly, retaining his European featherweight crown with a classic combination of blows, finishing with as beautiful a left as any purist could wish. His opponent, Guy Bellebigne, saw the Grand Hall lights go out after 47 seconds of the third round, and Hodgkinson was back on the world title trail.

BRYAN STILES watches rival promoters square up for a winner-take-all 15-rounder

But Eastwood, himself a promoter, knows the problem better than most. The board were confronted with legal threats for restraint of trade from promoters who claimed that under the fair trading laws they were entitled to put on a show whenever they pleased.

The board had to back down from their long-standing instruction that there should be a fortnight's gap between big shows. They are now conducting an investigation into the problem and Wednesday night's clash was what they have always warned against.

The decisive factor is the big money from television. BBC televised the Hodgkinson contest live and ITV produced a delayed screening of Lewis's victory, which was live on Eurosport. Television dic-

ates what nights it wants to screen boxing.

Promoters cannot afford to ignore the large sums on offer. The money enables them to bump up their purse offers so that they can secure the choice championship events. It means that boxing is having to dance to television's tune — a situation which, as Eastwood said, "could leave us having boxing matches in studios, with no atmosphere at all".

Duff added his weight to the argument: "Tell you what, if I had been uncommitted boxing fan I would not have sat in front of the TV set and seen both of them."

Duff was not happy that rival promoter, Barry Hearn, had put on the Lewis bout the same as his Wembley promotion. "If it had not been for local boxers selling tickets

to their supporters you could have fired a cannon in here tonight and not hit anybody," he said.

"I booked this hall four months ago, well before Hearn chose the date. The world boxing bodies have limited world title fights to 12 rounds — this fight is going to be a 15-rounder. We might find out how much money Barry Hearn really has got."

Back to the boxing: Hodgkinson is convinced he will beat the World Boxing Council champion, Marcos Villanasa, if they meet again, after having to quit against the Mexican last June because he could not see out of badly swollen eyes. While he waits for another chance he is prepared to take on John Davison, the Geordie, for his lesser WBC International title — provided the money is right. It is a risky bout — and they want risk money.
